

Obama considers fast appeal of gays-military order

BANNE GEARAN
PETE YOST,
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — The White House weighed a quick appeal of a judge's order abruptly allowing gays to serve openly in the military as Pentagon chief Robert Gates warned on Wednesday of "enormous consequences" for men and women in uniform if the ruling stands. A day after the federal judge in California ordered the Pentagon to cease enforcement of the "don't ask, don't tell" law, Gates told reporters traveling with him in Europe that repealing the law should be a question for Congress — and only after the Pentagon completes its study of the issue.

Allowing gays to serve openly "is an action that requires careful preparation and a lot of training," Gates said. "It has enormous consequences for our troops."

In Tuesday's ruling, U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips ordered the military "immediately to suspend and discontinue any investigation" or other proceeding to dismiss gay service members. The 1993 law says gays may serve in the military but only if they keep secret their sexual orientation.

Phillips wrote that the law "infringes the fundamental rights" of current and prospective service members. Gay rights advocates cautioned gay service members to avoid revealing their sexuality for fear that the Phillips ruling could be tossed out on appeal and they would be left open to being discharged.

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Chi! - Chi! - Chi! Le! - Le! - Le!



In this photo released by the Chilean presidential press office, Chile's President Sebastian Pinera, right, hugs rescued miner Mario Sepulveda after Sepulveda was rescued from the collapsed San Jose gold and copper mine where he was trapped with 32 other miners for over two months near Copiapo, Chile, early Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010.

In this photo released by the Chilean government, miner Mario Sepulveda celebrates after being rescued from the collapsed San Jose gold and copper mine where he was trapped with 32 other miners for over two months near Copiapo, Chile, early Wednesday Oct. 13, 2010.

Associated Press

All 33 miners rescued

History's longest underground ordeal ends

Associated Press

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Dozens charged with largest Medicare scam ever



NEW YORK – A vast network of Armenian gangsters and their associates used phantom health care clinics and other means to try to cheat Medicare out of \$163 million, the

largest fraud by one criminal enterprise in the program's history, U.S. authorities said Wednesday.

Federal prosecutors in New York and elsewhere charged 73

people. Most of the defendants were captured during raids Wednesday morning in New York City and Los Angeles, but there also were arrests in New Mexico,

Georgia and Ohio.

The scheme's scope and sophistication "puts the traditional Mafia to shame," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said at a Manhattan news conference. "They ran a veritable fraud franchise."

The operation was under the protection of an Armenian crime boss, known in the former Soviet Union as a "vor," prosecutors said. The reputed boss, Armen Kazarian, was in custody in Los Angeles.

Bharara said it was the first time a vor "the rough equivalent of a traditional godfather" had been charged in a U.S. racketeering case.

Kazarian and other defendants were to appear in court later Wednesday on charges including racketeering conspiracy, bank fraud, money laundering and identity theft. Authorities began the investigation after information on 2,900 Medicare patients in upstate New York including Social Security numbers and

dates of birth were reported stolen.

The defendants also had stolen the identities of doctors and set up 118 phantom clinics in 25 states, authorities said. The names were used to submit fake bills for care that was never given, they said.

Prosecutors said the phony paperwork showed eye doctors doing bladder tests; ear, nose and throat specialists performing pregnancy ultrasounds; and obstetricians testing for skin allergies.

Unlike other cases involving crooked medical clinics bribing people to sign up for unneeded treatments, the operation was "completely notional," Janice Fedarcyk, head of the FBI's New York office, said in a statement. "The whole doctor-patient interaction was a mirage." In the New York portion of the case, more \$100 million in fraudulent bills were submitted and Medicare paid out at least \$35 million, investigators said. □



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Los Angeles porn actor tests positive for HIV

LOS ANGELES — California's multibillion-dollar adult entertainment industry has been left reeling after another positive HIV test for a pornography actor.

The revelation Tuesday led to two of the industry's biggest companies shutting down production and a scramble to find partners who may have been exposed by the actor, whose identity and gender have not been released.

The actor was a patient of the Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation, a San Fernando Valley clinic that caters to pornographic actors.

Clinic spokeswoman Jennifer Miller told the Los Angeles Times that efforts are under way to notify individuals who may have had sexual contact with the actor. Miller did not return calls or e-mail from The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Wicked Pictures and Vivid Entertainment told the Times that they stopped production as a precaution when the positive test was revealed.

Los Angeles County public health officials and state occupational health officials have said the widespread lack of condom use on porn sets puts performers at risk for contracting HIV and other diseases. Adult film producers say viewers find them to be a turnoff.

Last year, a woman tested positive for HIV immediately after making an adult film, and in 2004, an HIV outbreak affecting several actors spread panic in the industry and briefly shut down productions at several California studios.

Porn actors are required by law to test negative for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases within 30 days of going to work on a film.

State workplace safety officials at Cal/OSHA are considering strengthening rules designed to prevent transmission of disease through bodily fluids to specify the use of condoms in the adult entertainment industry.

Currently, the same laws that call on health care professionals to wear gloves and other protective barriers when dealing with patients applies to the adult film business, but the laws don't make specific provisions for porn.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation President Michael Weinstein said his organization has been advocating for a tightening of the rules, and the adult entertainment industry and AIM clinic would "do everything in its power to prevent us from knowing who was impacted."

Weinstein said the latest case is the ninth HIV-positive adult film star to be treated at the AIM clinic since the 2004 outbreak.

Chief Counsel for Cal/OSHA Amy Martin said the clinic has been uncooperative in providing state regulators with key information by citing a patient's federal right to medical privacy.

But the clinic has even refused to provide redacted copies of employment histories for infected actors, which would allow the state to investigate porn production companies without naming the sick patients, Martin said.

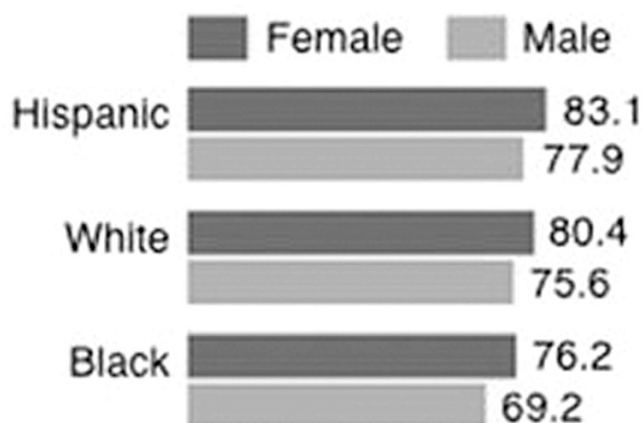
HIV is spread most often through sexual contact, but can also be contracted through sharing contaminated needles for drug use, infected blood products, or babies born to or breast-fed by infected women. It is the cause of AIDS, an immune disease that gradually destroys the body's ability to fight illness. □

In US, Hispanics outlive whites, blacks by years

Latino longevity

Hispanics born in 2006 can expect to live longer than their black and white counterparts in the U.S.

U.S. life expectancies, 2006



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

ATLANTA — U.S. Hispanics can expect to outlive whites by more than two years and blacks by more than seven, government researchers say in a startling report that is the first to calculate Hispanic life expectancy in this country.

The report released Wednesday is the strongest evidence yet of what some experts call the "Hispanic paradox" longevity for a population with a large share of poor, undereducated members. A leading theory is that Hispanics who manage to immigrate to the U.S. are among the healthiest from their countries.

A Hispanic born in 2006 could expect to live about 80 years and seven months, the government estimates. Life expectancy for a white is about 78, and for a black, just shy of 73 years.

Researchers have seen signs of Hispanic longevity for years. But until recently, the government didn't calculate life expectancy for Hispanics as a separate group; they were included among the black and white populations. The

new report projecting future life spans is based on death certificates from 2006.

By breaking out the longer-living Hispanics, the life expectancies for non-Hispanic whites and blacks both declined slightly, said the report's author, Elizabeth Arias of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hispanics are the largest, fastest growing minority in the United States, accounting for 15 percent of the population.

An estimated 40 percent of them are immigrants, who in some cases arrived after arduous journeys to do taxing manual labor. It takes a fit person to accomplish that, suggesting that the United States is gaining some of the healthiest people born in Mexico and other countries, said Dr. Peter Muennig of Columbia University's school of public health who has studied life expectancy in different countries.

Compared to the estimate for all U.S. Hispanics, life expectancy is nearly two years lower in Puerto Rico, more

than two years lower in Cuba, and more than four years lower in Mexico, according to World Health Organization figures.

However, experts say that immigrant hardiness diminishes within a couple of generations of living here. Many believe it's because the children of immigrants take up smoking, fast-food diets and other habits blamed for wrecking the health of other ethnic populations.

"The American lifestyle is very sedentary. That's not a good thing," said Jane Delgado, president of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, which focuses on improving health services for Hispanics.

Health researchers have seen a strong link between poverty, lack of education and life-shortening health problems. Hispanics are disadvantaged in those areas: About 19 percent of Hispanics live at or below the federal poverty level three times more than whites. As for education, fewer than 13 percent of Hispanics have a college degree, compared to 17 percent of blacks and 30 percent of whites.

Indeed, past CDC studies have shown that Hispanics suffer some diseases at higher rates than whites, including diabetes and heart disease. But their death rates from those diseases were lower, not higher. As early as 1986, some researchers had been reporting what appeared to be lower death rates among Hispanics compared to other groups in some parts of the country. But a national estimate was difficult. Calculating life expectancy is a tough task that requires analyzing extensive information about how people died and how old they were, as well as statistical modeling to predict how long people born today will live if current trends continue.

Until fairly recently, there was significant uncertainty about the accuracy of death records for Hispanics. □



FILE - In this Tuesday, April 16, 2010 picture, from left, Petty Officer Autumn Sandeen, Lt. Dan Choi, Cpl. Evelyn Thomas, Capt. Jim Pietrangelo II, Cadet Mara Boyd and Petty Officer Larry Whitt, stand together after they handcuffed themselves to the fence outside the White House in Washington during a protest for gay rights. A federal judge issued a worldwide injunction Tuesday stopping enforcement of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, ending the military's 17-year-old ban on openly gay troops. U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips declared the law unconstitutional after a two-week nonjury trial on the case in federal court in Riverside. U.S. Department of Justice attorneys have 60 days to appeal. Legal experts say they are under no legal obligation to do so and could let Phillips' ruling stand.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

OBAMA

Continued from Front Page

Defense Department officials would not say what was happening to current discharge cases, or even confirm how many pending cases there might be. A Pentagon spokesman, Col. David Lapan, said no written guidance had been issued to commanders on how to deal with the court order.

An Air Force officer and co-founder of a gay service

member support group called OutServe said Wednesday he will continue using a pseudonym out of concern that he could still be discharged. "Can I come out right now and be OK? And if I made a statement would it be held against me?" asked the officer, who calls himself JD Smith and said he is an Air Force Academy graduate. He said service members are hoping the Pentagon will clarify the meaning of the court ruling.

Warren Arbury of Savannah, Ga., said he'd love to re-enlist in the Army two years after being discharged in the middle of a tour in Iraq. But he's being cautious and patient.

"I think it's still way too soon," said 28-year-old Arbury, now a university student. "If I was to hear news that automatically everything would be reinstated, I'd be the first one in the door."

Arbury said he wants to know more about how the military

would reintegrate gay ex-soldiers: "If I go back in I want to know, Do I get my rank back? Do I get any damages or compensation?"

The uncertainty extended overseas. When asked by a reporter whether the ruling had had any impact yet, a two-star U.S. Army commander in eastern Afghanistan suggested he was unsure anything would change and said it was unlikely that his soldiers even knew about the court order.

"If that law is changed, they'll abide by the law," but "that's probably the farthest thing from their mind" as they fight, said Maj. Gen. John Campbell, commander of the 101st Airborne Division.

The Justice Department is considering whether to appeal the Phillips ruling, and its first response may well be another trip to the judge's courtroom in Riverside, Calif., to seek a stay, or temporary freeze. If Phillips turns down the request, the Justice Department probably would then turn to the federal appeals court in California.

If the government does appeal, that would put the Obama administration in the position of continuing to defend a law it opposes. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said time is running out for the ban on gays serving openly.

"This is a policy that is going to end," he said.

Gates, who supports lifting the ban once the Pentagon puts in place a plan for minimizing disruptions, said that besides developing new training for

troops, regulations will have to be revised.

Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, face disagreement by some senior general officers on whether lifting the ban would cause serious disruption at a time when troops are fighting in Afghanistan and winding down a long war in Iraq.

The incoming Marine commandant, Gen. James Amos, and his predecessor, Gen. James Conway, both have told Congress that they think most Marines would be uncomfortable with the change and that the current policy works.

In part to resolve the question of how the troops feel, Gates has ordered a study due Dec. 1 that includes a survey of troops and their families.

Gates has said the purpose isn't to determine whether to change the "don't ask, don't tell" law, which he says is probably inevitable, but to determine how to end the policy without causing serious disruption.

Cultural values in the U.S. have shifted since the law was passed, yet there remains a powerful rhetorical weapon for opponents of lifting the ban — fear that it would weaken a military at war.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins accused Phillips of "playing politics" with national defense.

"Once again, an activist federal judge is using the military to advance a liberal social agenda, disregarding the views of all four military service chiefs and the constitutional role of Congress," he said.

Perkins urged the Justice Department "to fulfill its obligation to defend the law vigorously through the appeals process."

President Barack Obama worked with Democrats to write a bill that would have lifted the ban, pending completion of the Defense Department review and certification from the military that troop morale wouldn't suffer. That legislation passed the House but was blocked in the Senate by Republicans. Democrats could revive the legislation in Congress' lame-duck session after the midterm election. □

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Mo. man survives mile-plus trip through sewer

RAYMORE, Mo. — A worker who descended into a city sewage system on Tuesday became unhooked from his safety line and was pushed through a 27-inch-wide pipe for over a mile before his calls for help were heard and he was rescued.

Daniel Collins, of Collins, Mo., was listed in critical condition Tuesday night at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City.

South Metropolitan Fire District Chief Randy Adams said Collins was being treated for hypothermia and had been administered antibiotics because he may have swallowed sewage.

Collins disappeared shortly after 8 a.m. Tuesday after descending into the sewage system in the town of Raymore. Adams said crews frantically searched manholes along a 1.5-mile route near a golf course.

After about 90 minutes, firefighter and paramedic Antonio Smith heard Collins calling out, "Guys, I'm down here. Can you help me?"

Smith was lowered into the sewer chamber and found Collins about 12 feet down. Collins appeared to have some bruises but was able to speak, Smith told KMBC-TV.

"It was a miracle to find him in that condition," Smith said.

He said that he put Collins over his shoulder, and crews topside helped lift him out. Firefighters covered Collins with coats while waiting for an air ambulance.

Adams said Collins "was not totally coherent. He was basically in and out, and he was very weak."

Collins was tethered when he descended into the sewer and was still wearing the harness when he was found. It was unclear how he became unhooked, which allowed him to be pushed through the pipe by rushing water.

Raymore officials said Collins' employer, Rosetta Construction of Springfield, was working on parts of the city's sewer system □

Police search wooded lot for NC girl presumed dead

HICKORY, N.C. —

Investigators used a police dog to search among tree-trimming equipment and piles of mulch for a missing 10-year-old North Carolina girl on Wednesday, a day after authorities said they believed the girl had been killed.

Hours earlier, Zahra Clare Baker's stepmother showed no emotion in court as a judge explained she could be sentenced to up to 30 months in prison if convicted of obstruction of justice. Elisa Baker is accused of trying to throw off investigators with a fake ransom note.

The girl, who used hearing aids and a prosthetic leg because of bone cancer, was reported missing over the weekend, but police have indicated they don't believe her father and stepmother's story.

Baker's court-appointed attorney, Scott Reilly, said she was "scared to death" and very emotional about everything.

"She's upset about being held in jail. She's upset about being away from her family," he said.

In nearby Morganton, seven officers and a police dog searched for Zahra on a wooded lot among piles of mulch and a wood chipper on Wednesday. The property has equipment belonging to the tree services company that employs her father.

An officer who asked for anonymity because he's not authorized to discuss the case confirmed the site was



among several where officers are searching for the girl. The officer said a different dog got a "hit" at the scene a day earlier, but nothing was found then.

District Attorney James Gaither Jr. said he couldn't discuss details about the case.

"I'm upset. The facts are disturbing. You saw the images; she is such a darling child," Gaither said.

Friends have described Zahra as shy but upbeat despite her health problems.

Elisa Baker is the only person accused in the case so far. Hickory Police Chief Tom Adkins said she was charged with felony obstruction of justice after admitting she wrote the ransom note, which asked for \$1 million. She had already been in jail since the weekend on unrelated charges. Adkins has said police can't find anyone outside Zahra's household who has seen her alive in the last month. The uncertain timeframe has made

it difficult for investigators to narrow down places to search for her.

Zahra's father, Adam Baker, has said it was possible his wife could be involved in the disappearance, and other relatives echoed those remarks. The father has not been charged in the case, though the chief said previously he hasn't been ruled out as a suspect.

The ransom note found Saturday was the first sign that the case would turn sinister. Officers discovered it on the windshield of Adam Baker's car when they came to investigate a yard fire at their home. It was addressed to a man Adam Baker had worked for, though police quickly determined that man's family was safe.

Zahra was reported missing that afternoon. The stepmother said she last saw Zahra sleeping in her room about 12 hours earlier, though Adkins has indicated he doesn't believe the timeline the couple gave him. □

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NATO: 6 troops killed, including 4 in Afghan blast



In this photo taken on Monday, Oct. 11, 2010, US Army soldiers from Scout Platoon 502 Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, carry supplies from a helicopter in Zhari district, Kandahar province. The Scouts' mission was to support roadside bomb clearance efforts in the militant stronghold, the latest days-long phase of Operation Dragon Strike.

ROBERT KENNEDY,
Associated Press Writer
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)
— In a bloody day for NATO
troops in Afghanistan,
insurgents killed six service

members, including four
who died in a single bomb
blast in the volatile south of
the country. One service member was
killed in the east in an

attack early Wednesday,
and another died in the
south in a separate roadside
bombing — the weapon
of choice for militants in
countering a large-scale
NATO-Afghan operation in
the region.

NATO did not provide
nationalities of the dead, or
specific locations where the
attacks occurred.

2010 has been the deadliest
year for international troops
in the nine-year Afghan
conflict. At least 34 NATO
service members have been
killed so far this month.
More than 2,000 have died
since the 2001 U.S.-led
invasion.

Troop numbers have been
ramped up in the past year

to turn the screws on the
insurgents. Fighting has
intensified and casualties
have mounted.

The escalating toll has
shaken the commitment
of many NATO countries,
with calls growing to start
drawing down troops
quickly.

The nearly 150,000
international troops
and 220,000 Afghan
government security forces
— whose recruitment and
training has been put on
a fast track — are still
struggling to gain the upper
hand against an estimated
30,000 insurgents.

NATO's top commander
in Afghanistan, Gen.
David Petraeus, offered
a cautiously optimistic
assessment of the transition
of security duties to Afghan
forces during a briefing with
alliance representatives in
Brussels on Wednesday.

"There are areas of the
country that are reasonably
secure already, and Afghan
security forces are capable of
handling security already,"
his civilian counterpart,
Ambassador Mark Sedwill,
told reporters after the
session.

The process should be
completed by 2014,
although some allied troops
— including special forces
and trainers — will remain
in Afghanistan after that
date, Sedwill said.

As they seek to turn around
the war, which recently
entered its 10th year,
NATO and Afghan forces
are increasingly targeting
insurgent leaders.

A commander and three
other militants from the

Haqqani network — a
Pakistan-based faction of
the Taliban with close ties to
al-Qaida — were killed in a
firefight with NATO and
Afghan forces in eastern
Khost province's Spera
district overnight Tuesday,
a NATO statement said.

As the security force moved
in on a compound, two
insurgents threw a grenade
and opened fire. Retaliatory
fire killed four militants,
including the commander,
Ansari Khan, it said.

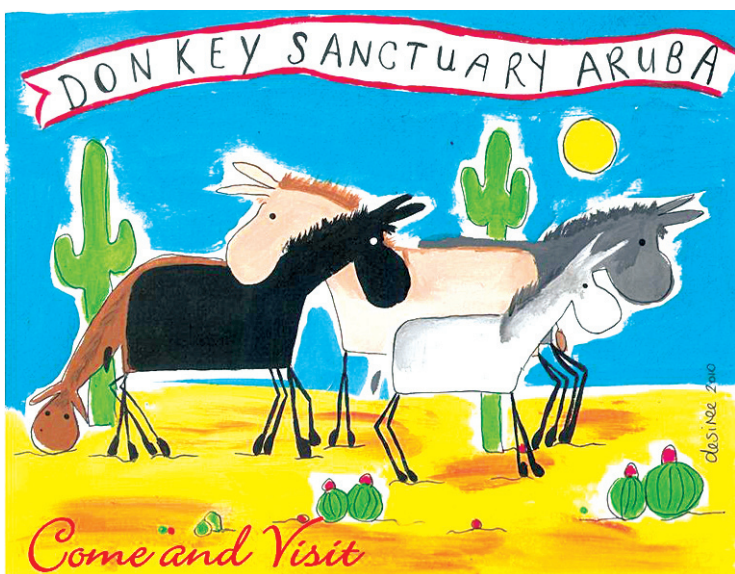
The Haqqani network
is most active in eastern
Afghanistan and presents
one of the greatest threats
to foreign forces.

On Monday, a coalition
airstrike killed Taliban
commander Shirin Agha
and another militant in
northern Kunduz province,
NATO said. Over the past
month, the alliance says
Afghan and coalition forces
have killed or captured 18
Taliban commanders in the
north where violence has
surged in recent weeks.

It was not possible to verify
independently the identities
of the slain insurgent
commanders.

Taliban spokesman Qari
Yousef Ahmadi has accused
NATO of a propaganda
campaign to demoralize
the insurgents by inventing
Taliban leaders and
alleging they were killed or
captured.

In other violence, insurgents
fatally shot Ahmed Khan,
chief of Dihrawud district in
southern Uruzgan province,
at a market on Tuesday,
according to Mohammad
Naeem, the district police
chief. □



Last of Chilean miners is raised safely to surface

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)

— The last of the Chilean miners, the foreman who held them together when they were feared lost, was raised from the depths of the earth Wednesday night — a joyous ending to a 69-day ordeal that riveted the world.

No one has ever been trapped so long and survived.

Luis Urzua ascended smoothly through 2,000 feet of rock, completing a 22½-hour rescue operation that unfolded with remarkable speed and flawless execution. Before a crowd of about 2,000 people, he became the 33rd miner to be rescued.

“We have done what the entire world was waiting for,” he told Chilean President Sebastian Pinera immediately after his rescue. “The 70 days that we fought so hard were not in vain. We had strength, we had spirit, we wanted to fight, we wanted to fight for our families, and that was the greatest thing.”

The president told him: “You are not the same, and the country is not the same after this. You were an inspiration. Go hug your wife and your daughter.” With Urzua by his side, he led the crowd in singing the national anthem.

The rescue workers who talked the men through the final hours still had to be hoisted to the surface.

One by one throughout the day, the men had emerged to the cheers of exuberant Chileans and before the eyes of a transfixed globe. The operation picked up speed as the day went on, but each miner was greeted with the same boisterous applause from rescuers.

“Welcome to life,” Pinera told Victor Segvia, the 15th miner out. On a day of superlatives, it seemed no overstatement.

They rejoined a world intensely curious about their ordeal, and certain to offer fame and jobs. Previously unimaginable riches awaited men who had risked their lives going into the unstable gold and copper mine for about \$1,600 a month.

The miners made the smooth ascent inside a capsule called

Phoenix — 13 feet tall, barely wider than their shoulders and painted in the white, blue and red of the Chilean flag. It had a door that stuck occasionally, and some wheels had to be replaced, but it worked exactly as planned.

Beginning at midnight Tuesday, and sometimes as quickly as every 25 minutes, the pod was lowered the nearly half-mile to where 700,000 tons of rock collapsed Aug. 5 and entombed the men.

Then, after a quick pep talk from rescue workers who had descended into the mine, a miner would strap himself in, make the journey upward and emerge from a manhole into the blinding sun.

The rescue was planned with extreme care. The miners were monitored by video on the way up for any sign of panic. They had oxygen masks, dark glasses to protect their eyes from the unfamiliar sunlight and sweaters for the jarring transition from subterranean swelter to chilly desert air.

As they neared the surface, a camera attached to the top of the capsule showed a brilliant white piercing the darkness not unlike what accident survivors describe when they have near-death experiences.

The miners emerged looking healthier than many had expected and even clean-shaven. Several thrust their fists upwards like prizefighters, and Mario Sepulveda, the second to taste freedom, bounded out and led his rescuers in a rousing cheer. Franklin Lobos, who played for the Chilean national soccer team in the 1980s, briefly bounced a soccer ball on his foot and knee.

“We have prayed to San Lorenzo, the patron saint of miners, and to many other saints so that my brothers Florencio and Renan would come out of the mine all right. It is as if they had been born again,” said Priscila Avalos. One of her brothers was the first miner rescued, and the other was due out later in the evening.

Health Minister Jaime Manalich said some of the miners probably will be able to leave the hospital Thursday



Miner Luis Urzua, the last miner to be rescued, center wearing green, celebrates next to Chile's President Sebastian Pinera after being rescued from the collapsed San Jose gold and copper mine where he had been trapped with 32 other miners for over two months near Copiapo, Chile, Wednesday Oct. 13, 2010. The 69-day underground ordeal reached its end Wednesday night after 33 trapped miners were hauled up in a cage through a narrow hole drilled through 2,000 feet of rock.

Associated Press

— earlier than projected — but many had been unable to sleep, wanted to talk with families and were anxious. One was treated for pneumonia, and two needed dental work.

“They are not ready to have a moment's rest until the last of their colleagues is out,” he said.

As it traveled down and up, down and up, the rescue capsule was not rotating as much inside the 2,041-foot escape shaft as officials expected, allowing for faster trips.

The first man out was Florencio Avalos, who emerged from the missile-like chamber and hugged his sobbing 7-year-old son, his wife and the Chilean president.

No one in recorded history has survived as long trapped underground. For the first 17 days, no one even knew whether they were alive. In the weeks that followed, the world was captivated by their endurance and unity.

Chile exploded in joy and relief when the rescue began just after midnight in the coastal Atacama desert. Car horns sounded in Santiago, the Chilean capital, and school was canceled in the nearby

town of Copiapo, where 24 of the miners live.

News channels from North America to Europe and the Middle East carried live coverage. Pope Benedict XVI said in Spanish that he “continues with hope to entrust to God's goodness” the fate of the men. Iran's state English-language Press TV followed events live for a time. Crews from Russia and Japan and North Korean state TV were at the mine.

The images beamed to the world were extraordinary: Grainy footage from beneath the earth showed each miner climbing into capsule, then disappearing upward through an opening. Then a camera showed the pod steadily rising through the dark, smooth-walled tunnel.

Among the first rescued was the youngest miner, Jimmy Sanchez, at 19 the father of a months-old baby. Two hours later came the oldest, Mario Gomez, 63, who suffers from a lung disease common to miners and had been on antibiotics inside the mine. He dropped to his knees after he emerged, bowed his head in prayer and clutched the Chilean flag.

Gomez's wife, Lilianett Ramirez, pulled him up from the ground and embraced him. The couple had talked over video chat once a week, and she said that he had repeated the promise he made to her in his initial letter from inside the mine: He would marry her properly in a church wedding, followed by the honeymoon they never had.

The lone foreigner among them, Carlos Mamani of Bolivia, was visited at a nearby clinic by Pinera and Bolivian President Evo Morales. The miner could be heard telling the Chilean president how nice it was to breathe fresh air and see the stars.

Most of the men emerged clean-shaven. More than 300 people at the mine alone had worked on the rescue or to sustain them during their long wait by lowering rocket-shaped tubes dubbed “palomas,” Spanish for carrier pigeons. Along with the food and medicine came razors and shaving cream.

Estimates for the rescue operation alone have soared beyond \$22 million, though the government has repeatedly insisted that money is not a concern. □

Ahmadinejad makes a show of strength in Lebanon

BASSEM MROUE

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

Associated Press Writers

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran's president made a bold show of strength in Lebanon on Wednesday, vowing before thousands of Hezbollah supporters that U.S. and Israeli power in the Middle East will soon be eclipsed.

The visit by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, welcomed by crowds of cheering Shiites, underscored the eroding position of pro-Western factions in Lebanon. More broadly, it suggested that the competition over influence in Lebanon may be tipping toward Iran and its ally Syria, away from the United States and its Arab allies Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

"We seek a unified, modern Lebanon," said Ahmadinejad, whose country is the main patron of the Shiite Hezbollah militant group, the most powerful military force in Lebanon. "We will stand with the people and government of Lebanon — and with all elements in the Lebanese nation — until they achieve all their goals."

Ahmadinejad sought to depict his country as an ally of the entire nation, not just Hezbollah. Iran, whose ties to the group date back nearly 30 years, funds Hezbollah to the tune of millions of dollars a year and is believed to supply much of its arsenal. Hezbollah



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad waves to the crowds from the sunroof of his SUV, upon his arrival in Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010. Thousands of cheering Lebanese welcomed Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Lebanon on Wednesday, throwing rose petals and sweets at his motorcade at the start of a visit that underscores deep divisions within this tiny Arab nation.

boasts widespread support among Shiites and virtually runs a state-within-a-state in Shiite areas

But Ahmadinejad's dramatic arrival only exacerbated fears among many Lebanese — particularly Sunnis and Christians — that Iran and Hezbollah are seeking to impose their will on the country and possibly pull Lebanon into a conflict with Israel.

The United States and Israel criticized the visit, with White House spokesman Robert Gibbs saying Ahmadinejad is

continuing his "provocative ways."

"We reject any efforts to destabilize or inflame tensions within Lebanon," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said.

After meeting Lebanese President Michel Suleiman and signing a series of economic and commercial cooperation agreements, Ahmadinejad went to Hezbollah's stronghold in the Shiite district of south Beirut. Before a crowd of Hezbollah supporters, he gave a passionate speech denouncing the United States and Israel.

He blamed Washington for the heated sectarian divisions in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Mideast, saying the United States sought to create strife "between people from different religions who coexisted for hundreds of years." He warned that the only way for Washington to keep its position in the region was to "end the domination of the Zionist regime."

"The Zionist regime is sliding towards collapse, and no power is capable of saving it," he said.

Allies of Lebanon's Western-backed, mainly Sunni coalition, which is led by Prime Minister Saad Hariri,

showed their worry over Ahmadinejad's visit.

A group of 250 politicians, lawyers and activists wrote an open letter to Ahmadinejad, criticizing his support of Hezbollah.

"Your talk of 'changing the face of the region starting with Lebanon' and 'wiping Israel off the map through the force of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon' ... makes it seem like your visit is that of a high commander to his front line," the letter said.

In Tripoli, a mainly Sunni city in the north, posters have gone up in recent days showing Ahmadinejad's face crossed out, above the words: "No welcome to the rule of clerics."

While Ahmadinejad was formally invited by Suleiman, the splashiest welcome came from Hezbollah.

Thousands of Hezbollah supporters lined the highway from the airport into Beirut, waving Lebanese and Iranian flags for Ahmadinejad's arrival. Trailed by heavily armed security in bulletproof vests, Ahmadinejad smiled and waved from the sunroof of his black SUV as he passed, and the crowd threw flowers and sweets at his motorcade.

"Ahmadinejad has done a

lot for Lebanon, we are here to thank him," said Fatima Mazeh, an 18-year-old engineering student who took the day off from classes to watch.

"He's not controlling Lebanon. Everyone has a mind and can think for himself."

On Thursday, Ahmadinejad is scheduled to make a trip to the Israeli border, which will emphasize Iran's support for Hezbollah's fight with Israel. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said Ahmadinejad "is the bearer of a violent message. He comes to a highly volatile region with the intention to play with fire."

Israeli lawmaker Arie Elad, from the ultranationalist National Union Party, went so far as to suggest that Israel assassinate the Iranian leader when he visits the border area.

Ahmadinejad's visit is his first to Lebanon since he became president in 2005.

While Iran gains strength in Lebanon, Hezbollah's other patron, Syria, also has been reasserting its role, with a prominent visit in July by Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Syria's nearly 30-year domination of Lebanon was broken in 2005, when it was forced to withdraw its military, and the pro-Western coalition came to power. But the coalition suffered a heavy blow in 2008, when Hezbollah fighters soundly beat Sunni gunmen in street clashes that erupted in Beirut. The unity government was later formed, giving Hezbollah a virtual veto power over Cabinet decisions.

A tenuous peace has held since. But there are fears it could be broken soon.

A U.N. tribunal investigating the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri — the current prime minister's father — is expected to indict members of Hezbollah as soon as this month, raising concerns of possible violence between the Shiite force and Hariri's mainly Sunni allies. □

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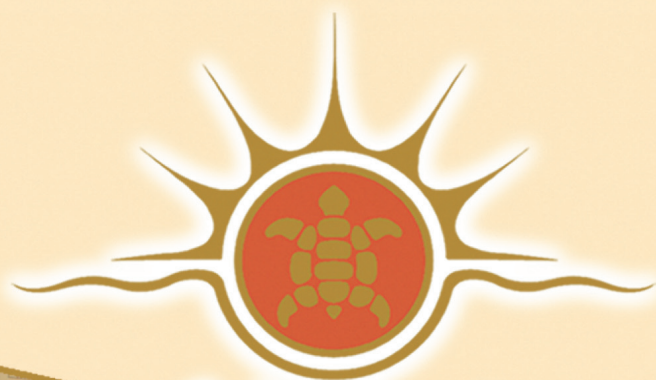
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Hurricane Paula weakens as it crawls toward Cuba

PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA, Cuba (AP) — Hurricane Paula weakened Wednesday on a rain-drenching crawl toward the lush tobacco-growing farmlands of western Cuba, threatening to inundate an area still seeking to recover from three major hurricanes in 2008.

At 8 p.m. EDT, Paula remained a Category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. It had been a Category 2 storm earlier in the day.

The hurricane's small core was centered some 40 miles west of Cuba's westernmost tip amid reports of heavy rain in the region, hours after Paula brushed past Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and the islands of Cozumel and Isla Mujeres.

After stalling briefly on Wednesday afternoon, Paula began a slow slog to the north-northeast at about 3 mph, the center said amid forecasts of a turn Thursday more to the northeast and east.

The hurricane was expected to pass very near or over western Cuba sometime Wednesday night or early Thursday, U.S. forecasters added. They predicted more gradual weakening by the storm over the

next day or two amid possible heavy rains.

Cuban authorities issued a tropical storm warning for Havana and areas surrounding the capital as western Cuba braced.

Forecasters said Paula threatened a storm surge and anywhere between 3 and 6 inches of rainfall on parts of Cuba. The storm was small in area, with hurricane force winds extending just 10 miles from its center.

Mexican authorities earlier said American Mickey Goodwin, 54, of Corpus Christi, Texas, drowned Tuesday while swimming off a Cancun beach after he ignored warnings and red flags alerting to dangerous waters from the storm.

It was the only fatality reported so far.

Cuba's chief meteorologist, Jose Rubiera, said Paula was expected to weaken as it moved slowly across the western part of the island. He said rains would also be weaker than once expected, but warned they could still cause problems in some areas.

"This is really a very small hurricane," Rubiera said. "The rains at times could be strong or intense in some areas of Pinar del Rio, but the truth is they shouldn't be that strong. They could be prolonged, however,

and that could lead to heavy accumulation."

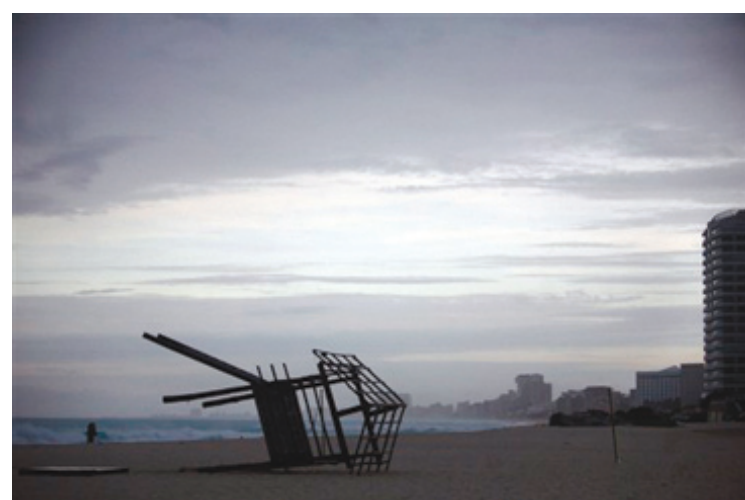
Despite the tropical storm warning in effect for the capital, Rubiera said Paula would likely have weakened to a tropical depression "if that" by the time it reached Havana on Friday.

In Pinar del Rio, many residents shuttered themselves indoors as heavy rain began falling Wednesday. Veterinarian Humberto Rodriguez and his 13-year-old daughter, Maria, made their way slowly in a horse and buggy down a highway near the town of Los Palacios, heading to their home nearby.

"I'm evacuating my daughter from boarding school and we're going home to prepare," said Rodriguez, 48. "I hope this one will not be as strong as the others."

Cuban officials were taking no chances. The communist government activated the island's crack Civil Defense forces, which declared an alarm for Pinar del Rio and the Isla de la Juventud. Residents were urged to cover up windows with plywood, tie down loose items and stay vigilant for flooding and heavy rains. No evacuations were ordered.

Pinar del Rio was devastated by three hurricanes that hit the area and other parts of Cuba in 2008, doing about \$10 billion in damage. The area is known



A damaged lifeguard shelter sits on the beach during the passage of Hurricane Paula in Cancun, Mexico, Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010. Paula roared off Mexico's top vacation resort of Cancun on Wednesday without immediate reports of major damage, and it was projected to veer into western Cuba.

Associated Press

for its high-quality tobacco fields and is crucial for Cuba's famed cigar industry. Growers had planned to begin planting tobacco on Tuesday ahead of next year's harvest.

Hurricane specialist Robbie Berg at the National Hurricane Center in Miami noted that small hurricanes can be more unpredictable and the fact that Paula had slowed could actually raise the threat of heavy rainfall.

"Small storms are a little more volatile. They can strengthen more rapidly and weaken more rapidly so they are a little more unpredictable," Berg told The Associated Press. "Whenever a storm is moving slower

it's going to spend a longer time over any particular area, dumping heavy rain."

"Right now, western Cuba is under the gun."

The middle and lower Florida Keys were put under a tropical storm watch even though no U.S. landfall is forecast at this time, he said.

As the storm left Mexican territory Wednesday, no major problems were reported in Cancun or other resort areas where some 27,000 tourists were visiting in October's off-season. On Tuesday, heavy rains and high winds from Paula's passage destroyed 19 homes in northeastern Honduras, authorities said. □



RED FLAG, an ECO ART initiative

by *Désirée Rep-Sporkslede*



ORANJESTAD - 'Magnifying the powerful physical design of the flower stalk from the Aruban Cuquisa also known as the 'Sisal' or 'Tequila plant' by placing them in a triangle in red' is an artistic experiment of Désirée Rep-Sporkslede; Designed in 2009 the 'RED FLAG' was exhibited at the first GREEN CONFERENCE and science fair of last week, that hosted many intellectual speakers like Prof. dr. Wubbo J. Ockels and former vice President of the US, Al Gore: To photograph the Eco Art piece she recently placed it for one day in the middle of the Saliña dancing on soggy mudflats. Roos Productions by Rebecca Roos documented the environmental experience; 'I'm not letting go the deep idea that nature's should be 'undisturbed and pristine' Désirée says 'in fact the message could be exactly that but Ecology of today tells us, that nature is under continuous observations, where disturbances are the norm, and humans play an integral role in ecosystems.'

Visitors reacted very positively to the 30 feet-high Eco Art work that showcases 3 of the stems a plant that is unique in the whole plant world because of the special role they have played in the indigenous civilizations that goes back to 9000 years ago when people made materials and ate from the plant. 'It is organic material that has an expiration date, but it is the challenge you go for,' Désirée says, 'but there is always a possibility to work on an enhanced version that is permanent.'

Participating in the GREEN CONFERENCE was Désirée's humble way to seek knowledge and find inspiration. I'm not a techno-wizard at all, but I do have interests in the future of my children, also I read that an increasing number of modern artists are exploring sites of science and that grabbed my attention as well she says. 'It was truly a brilliant experience to be among so many admirable speakers and guests'.

At the coffee table Désirée got to talk for a couple of

minutes with Prof. dr. Wubbo J. Ockels, the famous Dutch physicist and astronaut, about Environmental Awareness through as in 'Combining Art and Technology to Promote Sustainability'. Being a true scientist he said that creating awareness through Art forms is even greater if you can link it to technology, like solar and wind energy in monumental art forms on walls, roofs, on ceilings and in places where it can be useful. Naturally there is a lot of money involved in these projects. But the professor feels that it is the price you have to pay for change. 'Indeed these forms of art have been done all over the world and the combination of these two worlds sounds like a great plan,' says Désirée. However on Aruba we are light years away from using innovative technologies in Artistic expressions. But who knows, the Professor might have inspired one of our upcoming genius artists to



put science in to Art practice. Just like he did with the young students of University of Delft that helped building the 'Nuna' Dutch Solar Car using European space technology; These students admire him, but told Désirée he can be somewhat conceited. 'Well, he should be, Désirée says amused, 'because he's a very charismatic genius,' 'they say that 'climate change' paid him billions, but I truly feel he has put his intellect to the depth

of his soul only to better the world.

For 10-10-10 Désirée encourages re-planting mangroves from the Ritz Carlton site in the Salinja's; not only for the importance of CO2 sequestration and their significance to help prevent Global Warming but also because they are highly productive ecosystems with nurturing grounds that play a vital role in the life of coastal plants and animals. □



Tuscany Residence Aruba gearing up for construction



Palm Beach -- While the world is recovering from the recent economic decline, Aruba's real estate market continues to offer great investment opportunities to those prepared to take the plunge, and go ahead and live their dreams.

One of the newest, most exciting projects is Tuscany Residence Aruba, which recently captured headlines as it announced construction of a low-density gated community just across the island's much-anticipated Ritz Carlton, now under construction.

The sizeable property destined to become Tuscany Residence Aruba was just recently razed and is presently being nicely fenced in preparation for a model-home construction, scheduled to start in November, to conclude in the summer of 2011.

Tuscany Residence Aruba is the initiative of a Dutch group of investors, Esprit Project Development, in collaboration with the local Toscana Development NV.

The partnership produced an impressive design for a master-planned community with free-standing homes, stylish condos and tasteful townhouses sharing upscale, fully landscaped community pools and tropical gardens, a fitness center, a chic club-house, a gourmet restaurant, bar and ample parking, in a secure, exclusive, family friendly enclave.

Director of Sales Erick Munnikhuis is especially proud of the new technology which will be introduced here for the first time at Tuscany Residence Aruba. All homes, he explains, will be equipped with superb, digitally controlled, energy efficient air-conditioning units. Tuscany Residence Aruba will keep its energy consumption down by virtue of the double glazing on its glass windows and doors, and further keep the temperatures low via misting systems, installed on all terraces. The complex will be keyless, Munnikhuis states, relying on a secure, smart, entry system. And all materials used in building construction and interior decor will adhere to strict European standards, and to consistent quality controls.

Munnikhuis is no stranger to Aruba. Over the past decade the dynamic hotelier has enjoyed two successful stints on the island, first as sales executive and later as sales manager for the Marriott Vacation Club overseeing the sales of the Surf Club in its start-up days and returning later to the project to finish it up.

Throughout his career, Munnikhuis who was trained as a fighter pilot in the Dutch air-force, contributed to the development of successful projects for the prestigious Marriott Vacation Club concept in Marbella, Spain, London, England, Paris, France and Phuket, Thailand.

In his capacity as director for Sol Melia he orchestrated projects in the Canary Islands and the Dominican Republic. His life reads like a story book, but he confidently declares that Aruba with its clever blend of American, European and Latin cultures is among the best places on earth, providing an excellent quality of life to residents and visitors, and true to his philosophy Munnikhuis proudly points out the exact location of his dream-house, to be constructed within the boundaries of Tuscany Residence Aruba, in 2011.

Munnikhuis recruited a strong and vibrant sales-team to help spread the word around that Tuscany Residence Aruba is about to capture



the market, in the \$310k to \$750k range with a quality product that is unique and affordable.

Sales Executive Oscar Janga's background is surprisingly similar to that of Munnikhuis having worked for the Marriott Vacation Club for six year, as well as for Costa Linda Beach Resort in its successful heyday. Oscar, a Flight Instructor by profession was trained in the USA, and was a proud pilot for Air Aruba when the fondly-remembered airline serviced Aruba's many destinations in the 90s. Flying for Air Aruba for more than 7 years prepared Oscar for his Tuscany Residence Aruba assignment, appreciating the boutique feel and the intimate Mediterranean atmosphere offered by the development's 153 homes, away from mass overcrowding, favoring the small to medium growth over dense expansion.

Sales Executive Marisol Quijada brings her quadric-lingual sales experience to work everyday. With an extensive sales and marketing background Marisol is in possession of an in-depth understanding of the local and Latin markets. She was recruited to the project by Munnikhuis who immediately recognized her excellent people skills and her quiet and assured presence.

Sales Executive Raquel Eman, a local entrepreneur is also a member of the sales team. She recently joined Tuscany Residence Aruba focusing on customer service and long-term relationships with prospective clients. While the sales gallery will remain at the South Beach Centre, she explains, clients will be able to tour the project, with members of the sales team, to observe construction progress and to keep up with new developments.

The welcome committee of Tuscany Residence Aruba is made up of two charming individuals, Carina Zimmerman and Adriani Moebin, fluent in multiple languages, and blessed with enthusiasm and rich and varied sales experience, in retail and in timeshare.

No wonder that Tuscany Residence Aruba has enjoyed an unprecedented reception, and indications are that this trend will continue through the sell-out phase of the project.

Erick, Marisol, Raquel, Carina & Adriani promise visitors the best coffee north of the equator as well as tireless efforts to help visitors choose the right home, and assist them with financing and paperwork to successfully bring the deal to the Notary's office for signature, as there are not restrictions on real estate purchases in Aruba, and visitors do not need to become residents to own property here. □



Minister Michelle Winklaar:

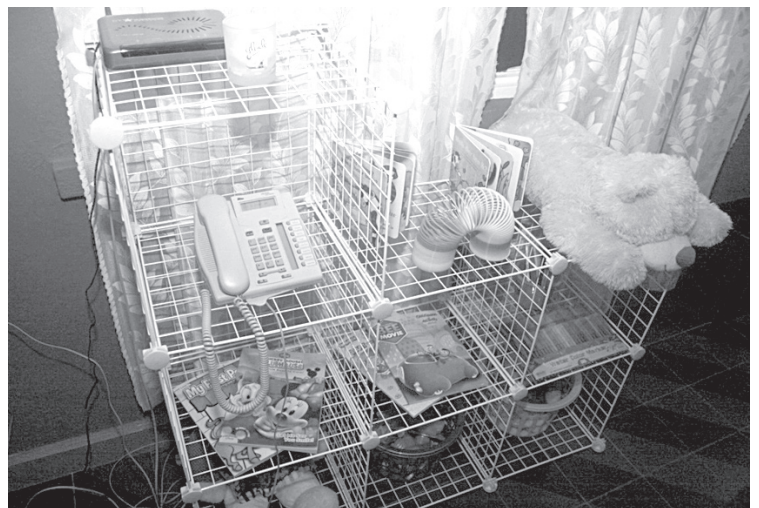
Aruban government content with the launch of new foundation

Foundation launched to prevent child abuse



ORANJESTAD – On Tuesday evening Minister of Social Affairs Michelle Winklaar cut the opening ribbon for the new office of the Lissette Gomes Foundation.

“Pabien” which translates to congratulations was announced by the minister in the name of the new foundation and all it stands for. Minister Winklaar declared that the “taboo” has to be broken and aggressive prevention has to be in place and with the opening of this new office in Ponton, help and assistance to victims will be easier to find. The government of Aruba will do everything in its power to help with solutions towards prevention and enforce justice on offenders.



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Loyal friends honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Renaissance Ocean Suites vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title.

The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Renaissance Ocean Suites, the place they call their home away from home. The following guests were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 22 years: Jean Bishop, John & Patricia Foster, Bruce & Cookie Brown from NY Bellmore.

Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Tino from The Renaissance Ocean Suites. □

Happy Birthday Paris



All the family and friends wish Paris Boset a very Happy Birthday today. Oct 14, 2003 was a very special day for many people when Paris was born. Best wishes from your family, friends and all the extentions and a big hug from Aruba Today.



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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

The Whiskey Festival features brand ambassador Arturo Savage



PALM BEACH -- Brand Ambassador Arturo Savage entertained press members over lunch at the Sunset Grille Restaurant courtesy of Romar Trading. The brand ambassador conducted an official tasting of Old Parr, including the 12, 15 and 18 year old superiors, preferred by connoisseurs and

aficionados worldwide. Savage who tours the world on behalf of Diageo, shared the thrills and taste of Scotland with his local media friends. He will also host a specialty dinner at the Sunset Grille on Thursday, prepared by the resort's award winning culinary team, inspired by his favorite brand.

Old Thomas Parr was born in 1483, a date that's noted in British history because he went on to live through the reigns of 10 kings, until he eventually died at the ripe old age of 152. The secret of his long life is not known; Thomas had a quiet childhood in the country, and no doubt spent his days



helping his father on the farm and exploring the nearby hills of Breidden and Long Mountain. Like many other boys at the age of 17, he went to work. He found employment at Rowton Castle, where he faithfully serviced the needs of the household for a number of years. He returned home when his father died, and began tilling and cultivating his newly inherited land. In the days before mechanisation, making a living from a small farm involved a simple existence, long hours and hard physical work – but he seemed to be content, and the next fifty years passed peacefully. So peacefully, in fact, that it wasn't until he was 80 years old that he decided to get married and start a family.

He married Jane Taylor, and had two fine and strong children called John and Joan. More years passed. Jane died. His children grew up. And at the age of 122, romance was once again in the air for Thomas, and he promptly got married (there is no record of any children). This longevity had not gone

unnoticed, however it wasn't until Thomas Parr was 152 that he was presented to court. His reputation spread, he was besieged by crowds of curiosity seekers, he was painted by Rubens and Van Dyke, and he was presented to his tenth and final monarch – King Charles. Unfortunately, all this excitement proved to be too much, and 'Old Parr' – as he was then known – promptly died. Such was his fame, that he was buried in the hallowed ground of Westminster Abbey, alongside such greats as William Shakespeare, Chaucer and Spencer, where his memorial can be seen to this day.

'Thomas Parr of the county of Sallop. Born AD 1483, lived in the reigns of ten monarchs: King Edward IV, King Edward V, King Richard III, King Henry VII, King Henry VIII, King Edward VI, Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, King James and King Charles, aged 152 years, was buried here November 1653' This is the inscription of John Parr's tomb at Poets' Corner in the South Transept of Westminster Abbey, London

From Boston USA

Gene & William Woodford celebrate their 50th anniversary



PALM BEACH - Gene & William has joined the happy couples having their ceremony on Aruba, combining the realization of a romantic dream with an unforgettable relaxing vacation together with family and friends. On Saturday October 9th with a beautiful sunset the occasion was extra special because it was the first time the whole family was together on Aruba. Gene & William are going to spend another 3 weeks at the Westin resort to relax and look back to this great event. The pictures taken by Robert Arenz tells a story of an excellent and memorable day for the Woodford family. Congratulations!!!



At the Occidental Grand Resort

Joseph & Ursula celebrate love with marriage



PALM BEACH - Joseph Maunder & Ursula Hardin were married this past Monday afternoon 10-11-10 just before the sun gently set into the sea at the Occidental Grand Resort. The lovely couple together with Ursula's Mother and Sister celebrated their love

with marriage in Aruba at 11 am at the Historic Civil House then a romantic sunset beach blessing officiated by Rev. Robert Gibson with the exchange of rings and vows. The event was coordinated by Kimberley Ras-Dammerman, the wedding coordinator for the

resort. The ceremony concluded with champagne toast and dinner for four on the water's edge as the sky turned an array of colors in honor of the celebration. Congratulations from the Occidental Resort and Aruba Today. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro



Laguna Restaurant now also open for breakfast



PALM BEACH -- With one of the island's most unique and picturesque settings, Laguna restaurant at the Radisson

Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa reopened two weeks ago after a brief hiatus to refresh the décor and create new dinner

theme night menus. After a successful run of the new evening buffet concept, at affordable prices in an upscale

environ, the restaurant is now also open for breakfast every morning from 7 am to 12 noon.

Laguna breakfast eaters may enjoy indoor seating or al fresco seating on the large deck overlooking a Zen-like tropical garden with lush landscaping and large coy pond.

The buffet serves every breakfast favorite under the sun, and offers anything from home-baked Danish to tropical fruits, eggs any styles, cheeses, cold cuts, spreads, cereals, yogurts and dried fruits, bacon, link sausages, pancakes, waffles, and breakfast potatoes, accompanied by fresh juices and just-brewed coffees for just US\$ 18.95.- per person with a special \$6.95 rate for kids.

Every evening (except Monday) the buffet offers a different theme night, with an all-you-care-to-eat concept created by an award-winning culinary team.

Laguna is popular with locals and tourists who enjoy the wide selection of cuisine, and the congenial service. □

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

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Report: NFL could lose \$1B with lockout

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

CHICAGO — The NFL reportedly could lose \$1 billion if there is a lockout after the March 3 expiration of the collective bargaining agreement — even if the entire 2011 season is played. The Wall Street Journal reported the figure Wednesday, citing unidentified senior NFL officials familiar with information presented to the 32 team owners at the league's meeting in Chicago.

"People think we can have a knock-down drag-out fight and settle on March 1, and everything will be fine, and it's not true," Eric Grubman, the league's executive vice president for finance, told the newspaper.

The paper said the NFL could lose \$400 million in March alone, when many season tickets are renewed, and another \$500 million if preseason games are canceled next summer because of labor unrest. Though the story said all teams were profitable, a league official told The Associated Press the NFL has never made that claim.

The Journal also said each team could expect to lose about \$8 million for every canceled home game.

Asked to comment on the newspaper report, James Quinn, a players' union lawyer, said the league had only itself to blame for any financial woes.

"This is a predicament of the NFL's choosing," Quinn said in a statement issued Wednesday by the NFLPA.

Continued on Page B4



Members of the Texas Rangers swarm winning pitcher Cliff Lee, center, after their 5-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays will face the New York Yankees in the AL championship series.

Associated Press
Page B3



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Golf's world ranking debates reaches the top

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

About all anyone can say with certainty about No. 1 in the world is that it won't be Tiger Woods at the end of October. It won't be Phil Mickelson, either.

Lee Westwood hobbled home from the Dunhill Links Championship at St. Andrews to rest his calf injury. He does not plan to compete again until the HSBC Champions in Shanghai at the earliest. By not playing, and through a gradual reduction of points, he will have a higher average than Woods in the ranking published Nov. 1.

But that doesn't guarantee Westwood will be atop the world ranking for the first time in his career.

Martin Kaymer moved to No. 4 with his fourth win of the year at the Dunhill Links, and the 25-year-old German can go to No. 1 if he wins the Andalucia Masters at Valderrama the last weekend in October.

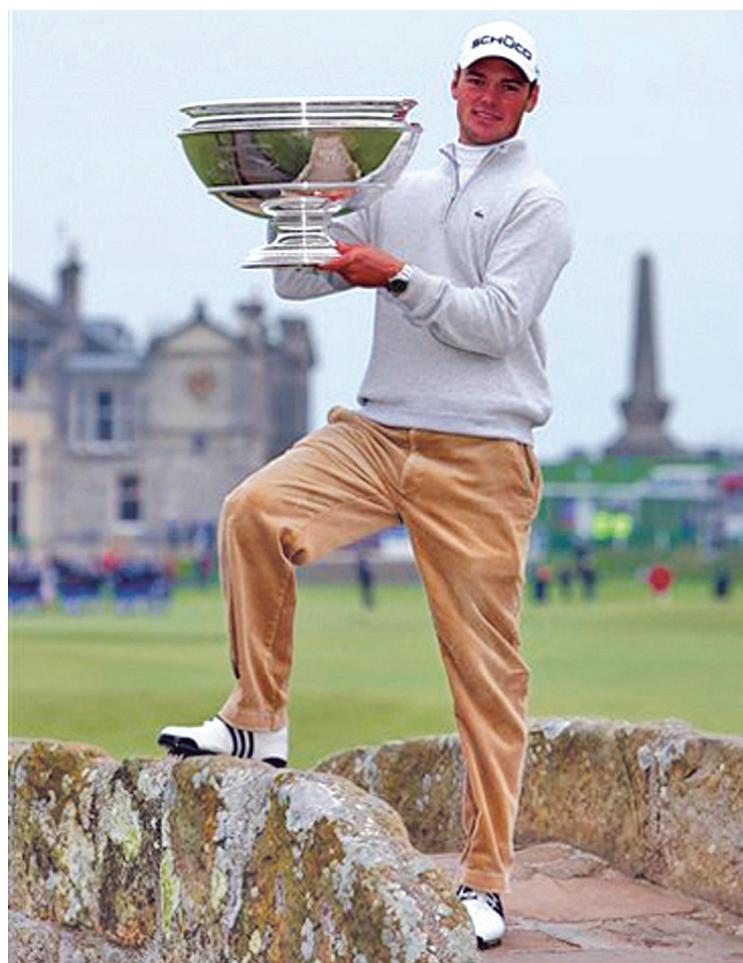
"At the moment, for me, Lee Westwood is the best player in the world," Kaymer said.

Not yet.

And maybe not for long.

They all could meet in Shanghai — assuming Westwood is fit to play — and all four could have a shot at No. 1.

For most of the last decade, any debate about the world ranking took place around No.



Germany's Martin Kaymer poses with the trophy after his victory during the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews Golf Course, Scotland, Sunday Oct. 10, 2010.

Associated Press

50, not at the top. Aside from incentives in endorsement contracts, the real value of the ranking came from the majors giving exemptions to the top 50 (or the top 100 for the PGA Championship as it tries to assemble the strongest field). Even those who didn't even try to understand how the ranking world rarely quibbled about No. 1. That much was obvious.

Woods returned to No. 1 a week before the 2005 U.S. Open, and he stayed there by doing in five years what it has taken Westwood a career to achieve — 32 victories (along with five majors) and 15 runner-up finishes.

The question is why he stayed there so long this year.

Not only did he take off five months as his personal life imploded, Woods has only two

top 10s this year, a tie for fourth in the Masters and U.S. Open. Because points are gradually reduced over a rolling two-year period, Woods has lost more world ranking points this year (330.105) than any other player has earned.

But it's important to understand what the world ranking is — and what it is not.

Just because a player is No. 1 in the world doesn't mean he's the world's best player. Anyone who has watched Woods over the course of the season can figure that out. It also was pretty clear in 2004 that Vijay Singh was the best golfer on the planet, yet the Fijian didn't rise to No. 1 until the sixth of his nine wins that season.

Being No. 1 simply means that player has compiled the best average (net points divided by number of tournaments) over a two-year period. The world ranking used to measure three years. The board could decide it should be only one year. Or one month.

In the last two years, Woods won seven times and finished in the top 10 in 58 percent of his tournaments. No one else has done that.

Mickelson has been No. 2 for most of the year, and he has been No. 2 longer than anyone in the history of the world ranking without ever reaching the top. Lefty has

only himself to blame for that. He had 13 consecutive starts this year with a mathematical chance to replace Woods at No. 1 and didn't get it done, including a 78 in the final round at Firestone and a 76 in the final round at the TPC Boston.

Perhaps the player with the best case in Kaymer.

Not only has he won four times, he captured his first major at the PGA Championship, had top 10s in two other majors and has accumulated the most ranking points of any player in 2010. Then again, it's not only about winning, and it's not just about the majors. And the ranking is about more than one year.

That's where Westwood fits in.

Over the last two years, Westwood has three wins, four seconds and four thirds. He was runner-up at the Masters and British Open this year, tied for third in the British Open and the PGA Championship last year. He won the Order of Merit on the European Tour. And he had to sit out for two months in peak form because of his calf injury.

When asked why he did not plan to take up PGA Tour membership last year, Westwood shared something that his manager, Chubby Chandler, had told him.

"Why would you take up membership in the States when you've been the most successful player in the world this year, through the injury, and you still have the great chance to go to world No. 1?" he said at St. Andrews. "You've come in second in two major championships. You must be doing something right." It would be an amazing comeback for Westwood, who went from No. 4 in the world to out of the top 200 during a three-year slump, never imagining that he could one day reach No. 1.

Not many could have guessed it might happen like this. Westwood's only win this year was the St. Jude Classic, made possible by Robert Garrigus taking triple bogey on the last hole. □

Woods doesn't have to go far to fill field



THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) — Tiger Woods will join two major champions and at least a dozen players from both Ryder Cup teams in his Chevron World Challenge in December at Sherwood Country Club. Still to be determined is whether the All-Star field will be without the No. 1 player

U.S. team players Tiger Woods, top, and Jim Furyk line up for a team photograph before the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament in Newport, Wales, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010. The tournament starts Friday Oct. 1.

Associated Press

for the third straight year.

Woods' foundation announced the 16 players Monday who qualified from the world ranking, a group that starts with Woods and goes down to Sean O'Hair at No. 28. The field includes U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell and PGA champion Martin Kaymer.

The tournament is to be held Dec. 2-5.

Lee Westwood, who could replace Woods at No. 1 in the world next month, will be competing in Sun City, South Africa. Woods has not played his tournament since winning in 2007 — he was recovering

from knee surgery in 2008, and ran over a fire hydrant a week before last year's tournament, setting off revelations of infidelity.

Others scheduled to play are defending champion Jim Furyk, Steve Stricker, Paul Casey, Luke Donald, Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson, Matt Kuchar, Ian Poulter, Hunter Mahan, Zach Johnson, Anthony Kim and Bubba Watson.

The foundation will announce two exemptions next week. Because the 18-man field offers world ranking points, the two exemptions must come from within the top 50. □

Lee tosses another gem to carry Rangers into ALCS

By FRED GOODALL

AP Baseball Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Texas Rangers mobbed Cliff Lee in front of the pitcher's mound before trotting off to the clubhouse for a celebration 50 seasons in the making.

Champagne was on ice, but first the AL West champions slipped on red t-shirts, fitted themselves with goggles and toasted the first playoff series victory in franchise history with plastic bottles of ginger ale.

The bubbly flowed only after Josh Hamilton left the room.

The major league batting champion, who overcame alcohol and drug problems to revive his career, appreciated the show of support.

"I'm speechless. This is so unbelievable," Hamilton said Tuesday night after the Rangers beat Tampa Bay 5-1 in the decisive Game 5 of the AL division series.

"For my teammates to understand why I can't be part of the celebration, for them to adapt it, it's amazing," he added. "It shows a lot about them."

Cliff Lee added another impressive line to his sparkling October resume, striking out 11 in a six-hitter that stopped the Rays from finishing an improbable comeback in a series in which the road team won every game — a first in major league history.

"It was a lot of fun, I know that much," Lee said. "We had our back against the wall today and we came out and performed."

The Rangers will host the defending champion Yankees in the opener of the best-of-seven ALCS on Friday night. Texas' three previous playoff appearances ended with first-round losses to New York, in 1996, '98 and '99.

The teams split eight games during the regular season, including Texas' three-game sweep at home in September. Lee beat the Yankees twice in last year's World Series for Philadelphia.

"It's something a lot of these guys have never been a part of, I've never been a part of, so it's exciting," Hamilton said. "We'll be ready."

Ian Kinsler hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning for Texas, the only active major league franchise that hadn't won a playoff series.

Lee improved to 6-0 with a 1.44 ERA and three complete games in seven career postseason starts, striking out 54 and walking six in 56 1-3 innings. He had 21 strikeouts and no walks in 16 innings against Tampa Bay.

"I don't think you can ask any more of a guy," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

The left-hander, acquired from Seattle in July, allowed just two baserunners after working through a third-inning jam and retired his final nine batters.

"He was the Cliff Lee that everybody is used to seeing and he got the job done tonight," said Rays outfielder Carl Crawford, who might have played his last game with Tampa Bay because he can become a free agent after the World Series.

When B.J. Upton popped out to shortstop for the final out, Lee didn't even watch the ball drop into Elvis Andrus' glove. He simply walked toward catcher Bengie Molina and the two hugged as Rangers players poured onto the field to mob them.

"It's a dream come true," said outfielder Jeff Francoeur, who was acquired in a trade from the New York Mets on Aug. 31.

"I always wanted to know what it would be like to play in New York in October," Francoeur added. "I wished it was with the Mets at first, but now I'll be up there playing the Yankees."

The Rays had the AL's best record this season, giving them home-field advantage in the playoffs. But they lost all three games at Tropicana Field, managing only two runs.

"We had our hearts set on winning the World Series," Crawford said, "so to lose in the first round is definitely disappointing."

Lee, meanwhile, delivered exactly what the Rangers have been expecting since they acquired him in a six-player trade.



Texas Rangers players douse teammate Josh Hamilton with ginger ale following the team's 5-1 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rangers advanced to the AL championship series against the New York Yankees.

Associated Press

The 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner allowed five hits in the series opener and beat Price 5-1. He struck out Carlos Pena six of the seven times he faced the Tampa Bay slugger in the series and finished with an AL division series-record 21 Ks in two games.

"We got him to help us win ballgames. We also got him to do what he did tonight," Washington said. "But he can't do it by himself, and the guys backed him up."

The Rangers gave Lee an early lead, catching the Rays napping after Andrus led off the game with a single and stole second base. Price coaxed Hamilton into hitting

a grounder to first base, and Andrus — running on the pitch — scored from second base when Pena flipped the ball to Price covering the bag and the pitcher didn't turn to check on Andrus in time.

Texas remained aggressive on the bases. The slow-footed Molina stole second on a full-count pitch in the third, his first steal since Sept. 9, 2006, with Toronto.

In the fourth, Nelson Cruz doubled off the wall in the deepest part of the ballpark, narrowly missing his fourth homer of the series. He put the Rangers ahead 2-1 when he brazenly stole third — with two outs — and continued

home on a throwing error by catcher Kelly Shoppach.

An alert play by Guerrero gave the Rangers a 3-1 lead in the sixth.

With runners at first and second and one out, Kinsler hit a grounder to Pena. The first baseman fielded the ball and threw to second for a force out, but the relay throw to Price covering first was not in time for an inning-ending double play.

Guerrero took off for home, surprising Price, who looked at the umpire for a call before throwing a bit wide toward the plate. Guerrero slid across headfirst to avoid the tag by Shoppach. □





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Minnesota Vikings' Brett Favre leaves the field after an NFL football game against the New York Jets early Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets won the game 29-20.

Associated Press

JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota (AP) — Brett Favre's latest problem is his elbow.

With the NFL investigating whether he sent lewd photos of himself to a Jets game hostess while he played for New York in 2008, Favre said Wednesday that his cherished, league-record streak of 289 straight starts could be in danger if the pain in his right elbow gets any worse.

The 41-year-old quarterback did not practice with Minnesota on Wednesday,

preferring to rest the tendinitis that flared up noticeably on Monday night in the Vikings 29-20 loss to the Jets.

"I don't want to play just to play," Favre said. "It's kind of a funny injury. It could flare up and get worse."

It's even more adversity for Favre this season, which so far has been anything but a repeat of last year's charmed run to the NFC title game.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said on Tuesday there is no timetable for completing an investigation into a Deadspin report that Favre

Favre's elbow the latest problem for Vikings QB

sent inappropriate messages and photos to Jenn Sterger in 2008.

And the Vikings are off to a 1-3 start heading into what they call a must-win game against Dallas on Sunday.

"I don't rank them," Favre said on Wednesday when asked how the allegations measure up to other issues he's dealt with in his career. "I'm thrilled to be here and have an opportunity to lead this team to the Super Bowl. ... There's still a lot of football left. I feel very confident in a lot of ways.

"You go through different things in your life. Football is a very tough sport, mentally and physically. Last year was great. Almost too great. But I woke up this morning and was very eager to get over here. Moreso than last year at this time, to get this back on track. I feel confident that (the team) will right itself in the end." In 20 years in the NFL, Favre has been through tough times before.

From his addiction to pain killers early in his career, to his wife being diagnosed with breast cancer, and through the death of his father, Favre has always managed to keep his focus on the game, often delivering some of his best

performances along the way.

"I think he's really handling it well. I really do," said Vikings kicker Ryan Longwell, a close friend of Favre's from their days together in Green Bay. "The guy is so resilient and has his priorities straight, and I think in the midst of a tough, tough situation, across the board, I think he's handled it really well."

Favre said on Wednesday that it was his elbow, not the investigation, that hampered him against the Jets.

He completed 14 of 34 passes and grabbed his arm several times as he tried to rally the Vikings.

He threw three touchdowns in the second half, but also sealed their fate with an interception that was returned for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

Coming off the most accurate season of his career, Favre missed several wide open receivers on throws "that I could have made blindfolded" were it not for the pain in his elbow.

"You're not going to make every throw but I would have made some of those throws," Favre said.

He insisted yet again that the allegations from a Deadspin report played no factor in his

performance. Favre said his preparation and focus "may even be better" now than it's ever been.

Vikings coach Brad Childress said he's "worried about both" Favre's physical condition with the elbow injury and his mental state with the investigation ongoing. But he also said that he feels that way about all of his players after the slow start for a team that began the year with Super Bowl aspirations.

"I am not overly concerned about where he's at with whatever he's got going on in his life," Childress said. "I don't mean to minimize it. It is what it is. But I see a guy that is here ready and prepared and doing the work. I don't see ill effects from that."

His teammates are rallying around their leader, the man they prodded to return for one more run at a title.

"I respect the guy so much, and I've seen him go through a lot over the 14 years we've been together," said Longwell, who was one of three Vikings to visit Favre in Mississippi in August. "And certainly we realize he stuck out his neck for us when we went down there and we certainly are not going to turn now at this point." □

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LOCKOUT

Continued from Page B1

"They took a juggernaut business in a challenged economy and then sent a message of a voluntary shutdown. NFL players proposed a 'lock-in' last year to get this done and they said no.

"The owners pocketed over \$300 million in cash savings in the uncapped year alone," Quinn said.

NFL owners opted out of the collective bargaining agreement with the players in 2008, resulting in no salary cap this season. Although several of them were optimistic Tuesday that a new deal could be reached by the end of the season, they also emphasized the dangers of not reaching a timely agreement. "I see history as a teacher," Colts owner Jimmy Irsay said. "I'm thankful to have been through it multiple times and (previous stoppages) stick in your mind. We've had a tremendous growth and building of this league and we don't want to lose that momentum."

NFL revenues are expected to approach \$9 billion this year, but owners claim too much (nearly 60 percent) goes to players. They say they have huge debts from building stadiums and starting up the NFL Network and other ventures, making it impossible to be profitable.

Marc Ganis, the president of the Chicago-based consulting company Sports Corp. Ltd., agrees that the league is starting to feel the effects of a potential labor stoppage.

"Although the amount lost by the NFL today is modest, it will grow very significantly as we approach the budget cycle of advertisers and sponsors, which is typically nine months in advance," said Ganis, who said he was aware of at least two teams that were losing money. "What may be a small amount today as we turn the calendar will be a much higher amount and as we go into spring with no CBA, a significantly higher amount." □

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Rockets beat Nets 91-81, Yao plays 19 minutes

ANITA CHANG

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Yao Ming played only 19 minutes while easing back from foot surgery but delighted his home fans by helping the Houston Rockets beat the New Jersey Nets 91-81 in an NBA preseason game on Wednesday.

Yao was naturally the star for the noisy, sellout crowd of 17,000 at Wukesong Arena — the Beijing Olympics basketball venue— even though he finished with only nine points and four rebounds.

After sitting out last season following surgery to repair a broken bone in his foot, he merely jogged back down the court while his teammates raced ahead, but there were also flashes of his soft touch, flicking the ball into the net above a swarm of defenders.

“We’re just trying to bring him along slowly but he’s gotten better every game. We’re very pleased with what’s happening,” Houston coach Rick Adelman said.

The Rockets have said they plan to limit Yao to 24 minutes per game this season, consulting with doctors as the season progresses to see if he can handle more.

Adelman acknowledged Yao was frustrated by the restriction, but said he planned to allow the center to play 24 minutes in one of their final two preseason games before their Oct. 26 season-opener against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Yao agreed that his limited playing time was for the best, though he admitted he was reluctantly getting used to it. “Everything is geared toward

letting me hold up longer,” he said. “Even little kids know, vegetables might not taste very good, but they’re good for you and healthy, that’s how it is.”

Kevin Martin led Houston with 18 points and Aaron Brooks added 17.

Brook Lopez topscored for New Jersey with 22 points, while Terrence Williams came off the bench to add 20 and Devin Harris had 19.

Harris also had seven of the Nets’ 11 assists for the game.

“Our ball movement needs

to improve,” coach Avery Johnson said. “We’re a team that takes pride on swinging the basketball and we didn’t swing it enough tonight.” The Rockets led for nearly the entire game. □

Brook Lopez of the New Jersey Nets, at right is blocked by Houston Rocket’s Yao Ming during a NBA China game held in Beijing, China on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010. Houston Rockets beat New Jersey Nets 91-81.

Associated Press

Arenas fined for faking injury before Wizards game



Washington Wizards’ JaVale McGee, left, watches from the bench with teammate Gilbert Arenas, right, during the fourth quarter of an NBA preseason basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in Washington, on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010. Wizards coach Flip Saunders said before Tuesday night’s game that Arenas’ knee was bothering him. The Wizards defeated the Hawks 107-92.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gilbert Arenas has been fined for faking an injury to keep from playing in the Washington Wizards home preseason opener.

Coach Flip Saunders said on Wednesday that Arenas was fined an undisclosed amount by the NBA team for claiming to have a sore knee before the game against Atlanta on Tuesday.

Arenas said after the game that he pretended to have a bad knee to give teammate Nick Young a chance to start.

It would have been Arenas’ first game at home since his 50-game suspension and felony conviction for bringing guns into the locker room last season. □



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Cristie Kerr watches her tee shot on the third hole during the final round play of Navistar LPGA Classic golf tournament in Prattville, Ala., Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010.

Associated Press

Kerr trying to regain LPGA No. 1 ranking

DANVILLE, Calif. — With four of her top five closest competitors taking the week off, Cristie Kerr is poised to once again take over the No. 1 ranking in women's golf.

Keeping it might be a bigger challenge.

Kerr, Jiyai Shin and Ai Miyazato have taken turns in the top spot in what has been a wide open race this year. That's in contrast to past seasons when Annika Sorenstam and Lorena Ochoa, both retired, dominated with little or no threat.

"It's been crazy and it's been fun," Kerr said Wednesday as she prepared for the CVS/pharmacy LPGA Challenge. "It's been kind of like a roller-coaster ride. It's a good time for us." Kerr missed a chance to reclaim the top spot last week when she struggled over the final 22 holes of the Navistar LPGA Classic and ended up tying for third. Had she won, Kerr would have moved to No. 1. Instead, she jumped past Shin into second place behind Miyazato.

Miyazato, who has held the No. 1 ranking for eight straight weeks, tied for 27th at the Navistar Classic but is skipping this week's Northern California stop on the tour. Shin, Suzann Pettersen and Yani Tseng also are bypassing the tournament.

That means Kerr can regain the No. 1 ranking for third time this year with a win. Even a top-five finish will likely push her past Miyazato. That would give Kerr — owner of 14 LPGA career titles — a shot at becoming the first American to end the season No. 1 since the

rankings began in 2006. Beth Daniel (1994) is the last American to earn player of the year honors on the tour.

"The more we can get the word out that the LPGA is exciting and it's something to watch and there is an American, me, now up there in the mix to be No. 1 in the world, I think we'll get a lot more fans, a lot more people interested," said Kerr, who celebrated her 33rd birthday Tuesday. "It's been a long time since Americans had the ability to end the year No. 1, so I think that you've just got to go for it. We need to grow our fan base in the United States again, so that we can grow and have more tournaments and more sponsors here. When I first came on tour we had over 40 tournaments. Now we have 26. It's quite a change in 10 years."

Kerr won this tournament in 2002 for her first career LPGA title. Though she's been unable to repeat that success here, Kerr felt it was important to be at this year's event, which could be the tour's final appearance in the Bay Area. CVS has announced it will not extend its agreement with the LPGA as the tournament's primary sponsor, leaving an already cash-strapped event looking for a new backer.

If they can't find one, the tournament will either be moved away from the Blackhawk Country Club or nixed altogether.

"It's not that I owe it to anybody to be here, I just thought it would be really nice for the sponsor for me to be here, especially since this was my first tournament win," Kerr said. □



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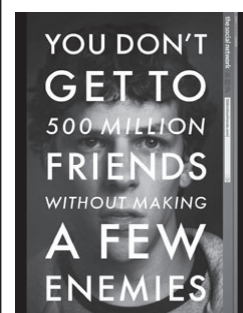
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This Feb. 13, 2008, file photo shows federal agent Jeff Novitzky on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

MONTREAL (AP) — The director general of the World Anti-Doping Agency says he wouldn't be surprised if some BALCO-like revelations come out of the ongoing investigation into cycling that has Lance Armstrong as its apparent focus.

DAvid Howman said Wednesday that he suspects

WADA: Cycling case may be as big as BALCO

"some information will come out of the current inquiries that will be equally as significant as BALCO."

In addition to implicating athletes such as Barry Bonds and Marion Jones, BALCO opened a window into the methods that athletes used to dope.

Howman wouldn't get into specifics of what he thought might come out of the case being investigated by U.S. prosecutors in Los Angeles, but said WADA has agreed to cooperate in passing along any information it has.

People who used to work with Armstrong have been called in front of the grand jury meeting in Los Angeles.

Armstrong, who won the Tour de France a record seven times, has repeatedly

denied allegations he took performance-enhancing drugs.

Federal prosecutors have been taking a look at cheating in cycling for months, aided by Food and Drug Administration Agent Jeff Novitzky, who played a key role in BALCO. Speaking about the general health of the sport of cycling, which has been hammered by anti-doping cases over the past decade — including current allegations against three-time winner Alberto Contador — Howman said, "I think that's a matter for the sport to address."

"Our job is to make sure the anti-doping program is OK," he said. "If, after that, we still find people who are cheating, they've got to sit back and say, 'What do we do now?'" □

Federer, Nadal win Shanghai openers; Roddick retires

SHANGHAI (AP) — Roger Federer marked a winning return to play on Wednesday with another between-the-legs shot in his 6-3, 6-4 victory over American John Isner at the Shanghai Masters.

Federer was playing his first match since the U.S. Open, where he lost to Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, but showed few signs of rustiness as he moved into the third round, joining Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic.

The third-seeded Swiss broke Isner's big serve twice, but the highlight of his win came in the second set when he chased down a lob and flicked the ball back through his legs. Isner was so surprised, he put his volley into the net.

Federer has successfully pulled off the shot — also known as a “tweener” — at the previous two U.S. Opens as well as at the Dubai Open in 2007.

“I’m hitting that shot so well now, it’s almost the most consistent shot in tennis these days,” Federer joked.

The top-ranked Nadal, fresh from winning the Japan Open on Sunday, began his quest for an eighth title of the season with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Stanislas Wawrinka. Wawrinka, a surprise quarterfinalist at the U.S. Open, hit 32 winners to Nadal's 17 and eight aces to Nadal's two — but also finished with 36 unforced errors. “Wawrinka is a very good player and it's very difficult to have a victory

today in straight sets,” Nadal said. “I’m happy for that. For sure it wasn’t easy, but it wasn’t one of these very, very difficult days.”

Andy Roddick's hopes of finishing a ninth straight season inside the top 10 suffered a blow when he had to retire from his second-round match against Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain while leading 6-3, 2-3. The American limped to the sideline after dropping his serve in the fourth game of the second set, wincing in pain. He returned to the court after a trainer taped his thigh, but played only one more game before quitting.

After the match, Roddick said he had aggravated his groin muscle in his quarterfinal match at the Japan Open last week and it hadn't fully healed.

“It was to the point where moving at all felt like I was getting stabbed in the leg,” he said. “It’s just frustrating. You’ve got to be able to get a little bit of momentum going and I just feel like I haven’t been able to do that since April or May.”

The American, ranked 11th, has been trying to regain his form after struggling with a mild case of mononucleosis over the summer and suffering disappointing losses at the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Roddick also retired in his second-round match in Shanghai last year with knee pain. Defending champion



American Andy Roddick receives medical treatment on his thigh during his round two match against Guillermo Garcia Lopez of Spain in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010. Roddick retired from the match due to the injury.

Associated Press

Nikolay Davydenko also went out of the tournament on Wednesday. The sixth-seeded Russian fell to Mischa Zverev of Germany 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Davydenko dropped six straight points in the second-set tiebreaker, then saved three match points before Zverev clinched it with a forehand winner up the line.

Djokovic and Murray easily reached the third round. The second-ranked Djokovic beat Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 6-3, 6-3, just two days after winning a rain-delayed final at the China Open.

Djokovic is also playing doubles in Shanghai — partly

to prepare for Serbia's Davis Cup final against France in December — but said he wasn't worried the extra matches would tire him out.

“I’m playing well, moving well, motivated mentally and full of energy. I’m hoping that it’s going to stay that way,” Djokovic said. “I didn’t spend that much energy in Beijing. I won without dropping a set the whole tournament.”

Djokovic next faces France's Richard Gasquet, who won two matches Wednesday following Tuesday's rain delays, beating Latvia's Ernests Gulbis 6-1, 6-4 in the afternoon and then upsetting 15th-seeded

countryman Gael Monfils, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, in the evening.

The fourth-seeded Murray beat 465th-ranked Chinese wild card Bai Yan 6-2, 6-2. Murray broke his opponent five times, while dropping his own serve only once.

Next up for Murray is French qualifier Jeremy Chardy, who defeated Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine 6-1, 5-7, 6-2.

Other winners included fifth-seeded Robin Soderling of Sweden, No. 11 David Ferrer of Spain, 13th-seeded Jurgen Melzer of Austria and 12th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, who ousted American Sam Querrey. □

NHL Roundup

Avalanche beats Red Wings 5-4 in shootout

DETROIT (AP) — Brandon Yip's goal in the sixth round of the shootout gave the Colorado Avalanche a 5-4 win over the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL on Tuesday.

David Jones had two goals and an assist in regulation, and Ryan O'Reilly and Daniel Winnik also scored for Colorado. Peter Budaj stopped 24 shots.

Johan Franzen had two goals, and Pavel Datsyuk and Patrick Eaves also scored for Detroit. Todd Bertuzzi and Nicklas Lidstrom had two assists, and Jimmy Howard made 34 saves.

Kings 3, Thrashers 1

In Los Angeles, Ryan Smyth scored the tying goal and set up Jarret Stoll's go-ahead goal in the opening minutes of the third period, as Los Angeles rallied for a victory over Atlanta in its home opener.

Smyth added an empty-net goal and Jonathan Quick made 31 saves for the Kings, who began a season of uncommonly high expectations with two scoreless periods before a late flurry led by veteran forward Smyth.

Chris Thorburn scored for the Thrashers. □



Colorado Avalanche winger Brandon Yip (18) is congratulated by teammates after scoring on Detroit Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard during the shootout period of an NHL hockey game in Detroit, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010. The Avalanche defeated the Red Wings, 5-4.

Associated Press

SPORTS BRIEFS

Report: Transgender woman sues LPGA for birth rule

NEW YORK (AP) — A transgender woman is suing the U.S. LPGA Tour over a requirement which states all competitors must be “female at birth.”

The New York Times is reporting on Wednesday that Lana Lawless, a 57-year-old who underwent gender reassignment surgery in 2005, filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in San Francisco claiming the policy violates California civil rights laws.

Lawless won the women’s world championship in long-drive golf in 2008, but was barred from competing this year because Long Drivers of America — which oversees the event — had changed its policy to mirror that of the U.S. LPGA.

She is seeking to prevent the U.S. LPGA from holding events in California until the policy is changed, as well as an unspecified amount in damages from Long Drivers of America and two of its title sponsors. □

Pearson headlines second NASCAR Hall of Fame class

Former driver David Pearson speaks to reporters after being selected to the second class of inductees for the NASCAR Hall of Fame, in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010.

Associated Press

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — David Pearson has been selected to the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

The Silver Fox was controversially left out of last year’s inaugural class despite 105 career wins. There was an outcry among race fans at his exclusion in favor of longtime NASCAR chairman Bill France Jr.

Pearson received an immediate standing ovation from those gathered in the Great Hall of the Hall of Fame on Wednesday. Also selected was Bobby Allison, whose 84 wins are tied for third on the all-time victory list.

Lee Petty, the patriarch of Petty Enterprises was the third name announced. He was followed by Ned Jarrett and Bud Moore.

Not selected was Darrell Waltrip, the three-time champion who had actively campaigned. □

Autopsy: Ex-Olympian Pettigrew overdosed on meds

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina (AP) — An autopsy shows former world 400-meter champion Antonio Pettigrew died from an overdose of a drug common to sleeping pills and allergy medications.

An autopsy report released Wednesday by the state medical examiner’s office said the cause of death was diphenhydramine toxicity. The National Institutes of Health says the drug is used in a wide range of over-the-counter products.

The 42-year-old Pettigrew was found dead in the backseat of his locked car in August. Chatham County Sheriff’s Maj. Gary Blankenship said then that there was evidence he had taken sleeping pills. Investigators did not return calls seeking comment Wednesday.

Pettigrew admitted to doping and was stripped of the relay gold medal he won at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. □

Dario Franchitti cements place in IndyCar history

Dario Franchitti, of Scotland, poses for photographers after winning the IndyCar Series’ season points title at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla., Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010.

Associated Press

JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

Dario Franchitti hears the list of names and it still doesn’t sound right: Foyt, Meyer, Shaw, Ward and ... Franchitti? “I hear that kind of list and I hear these legends of the sport, and I don’t feel part of that group, you know what I mean?” the Scot said this week during a teleconference. Franchitti can be humble all he likes. After winning the Indianapolis 500 and the IndyCar Series championship in the same season for the second time, there’s no doubt he’s on that list of all-time greats in open-wheel racing.

A record-tying three IndyCar titles, including the past two, and two Indianapolis 500s show that Franchitti does indeed belong up there with the likes of A.J. Foyt, Louis Meyer, Wilbur Shaw and Rodger Ward — the only other drivers to pull off the Indy 500-season title double twice in their careers.

Franchitti’s not flashy, he’s not one of those wow-he’s-fast drivers, just the best all-around driver on the circuit, equally

adept at winding through road courses or running all out on the ovals.

“Dario isn’t the impresario that (Alex) Zanardi was, or he’s not somebody that is referred to as blindingly fast like (Juan Pablo) Montoya was when he was in IndyCar,” owner Chip Ganassi said. “But he’s always one of these guys that he’s always there when it counts.”

The past two seasons, that’s meant being within reach of the IndyCar Series title.

Last year, coming off an aborted NASCAR run, Franchitti was third in the points standings heading into the season finale at Homestead, Florida and walked away with the title after gambling on pit strategy to leapfrog New Zealand teammate Scott Dixon and Australian Ryan Briscoe.

Will Power of Australia led the points all season this year, only to have Franchitti start growing in his mirror with each race towards the end.

Nearly 60 points behind with four races to go, Franchitti whittled away at Power’s lead, pulling within 11 points.

He ended up capturing the pole at Homestead, led the most laps, then downshifted into preservation mode after Power labored in his scramble to catch up.

When it was over, Franchitti became the first driver to win consecutive titles since Sam Hornish Jr. in 2001 and 2002, and had won the last three IndyCar seasons he’s entered. “From 2007, it’s all just clicked,” Franchitti said. “I think when you figure out how to win one of these things, you’ve kind of got that knowledge to fall back on.”

It wasn’t a bad 2010 for Franchitti’s owner, either.

Jamie McMurray won the Daytona 500 and Brickyard 400 on the NASCAR side, and Franchitti’s win at Indy made Ganassi the first owner to win all three races in the same season. His team also won the Rolex 24 at Daytona and Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series.

“It would be very hard to have anything that will turn it into a not so good year,” he said. “Practically nothing can happen to turn it into a bad year.”

Especially when he has a driver like Franchitti in the garage.

The 37-year-old Scot has reached the peak of his powers, a tactician who can match road-course specialists such as Power turn-for-turn or switch to an oval and keep hard-chargers like Helio Castroneves at bay.

Calm and always cool under pressure, Franchitti doesn’t make mistakes, simply waits in the rearview lurking, ready to pounce when someone else does.

“I’m very proud of my achievements winning the three championships and the two Indianapolis 500s,” Franchitti said. “I just feel I’m a driver who has been lucky enough to drive some great equipment and gotten the job done.”

Foyt, Meyer, Shaw, Ward, Franchitti — sounds about right. □



Virus that causes genital warts linked to oral cancer: study

WASHINGTON – Mouth and throat cancer could be caused by the virus that causes genital warts and cervical cancer, and it could be spreading through sex and French-kissing, a study published Wednesday says.

“In addition to the known oral cancer risk factors -- smoking, drinking alcohol and chewing betel nuts -- human papillomavirus (HPV) has been added to the list,” the study published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Emerging Infectious Diseases report says.

HPV has been documented in many cases of oropharyngeal squamous cell cancer, which is on the rise, and the study suggests that the increase in these mouth and throat cancers could be caused by infection with the virus that

causes genital warts and cervical cancer.

They also suggest that the rising incidence of oral cancer could be due to changing sexual behaviors.

Oral sex has become more commonplace and people have more sex partners and have sex earlier in life -- all behaviors linked to HPV-related oral cancers, the study said.

Its authors, Torbjorn Ramqvist and Tina Dalianis of the Karolinska Institutet, cited earlier studies and their own research using the Swedish Cancer Registry, in writing up their findings.

“In a recent study... it was shown that the risk of developing oral HPV infection increased with increases in lifetime oral or vaginal sex partners,” they said.

“It has also been reported

that ... open-mouthed kissing was associated with the development of oral HPV infection,” they said, citing the results of a study that looked at 542 US students.

“We suggest that we are encountering a slow epidemic of mainly sexually transmitted HPV-induced” oral cancers, the report said.

Oropharyngeal cancers caused by HPV are the second most common cancer linked to the virus, and their incidence is increasing.

The researchers observed that cases of throat and mouth cancer are rising in Britain, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States, especially among young people, and more often among men than women.

The researchers urge the scientists to study the effects of the HPV vaccine available



Mouth and throat cancer could be caused by the virus that causes genital warts and cervical cancer, and it could be spreading through sex and French-kissing, a study published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Emerging Infectious Diseases report says.

to girls and women on oropharyngeal squamous cell cancers.

If the vaccine is found effective against mouth and throat cancer tumors, health

officials should consider expanding the universe of patients vaccinated against HPV infection to include boys and men, they said. □



By Zach Gottlieb

NEW YORK – A chemical found in chili peppers that is being touted as a weight loss aid may not be as useful as its manufacturer would like people to think, a new study suggests.

Japanese food maker Ajinomoto claims that this chemical-called dihydrocapsiate-is “a great tool for weight management” that helps people burn calories, the company’s Jun Tashiro told Reuters Health.

However, researchers found

no change in body weight and only a small increase of around 50 more calories burned per day after people took a pill containing the compound.

They also did not find a significantly larger effect in high doses of dihydrocapsiate, for which they had chosen a goal of 75 calories burned per day. The researchers concluded that the compound had a relatively weak effect.

Dr. Soren Snitker, a professor at University of Maryland School of Medicine who was not involved with the study,

pointed out that making this judgment depends on how one looks at the data.

“The researchers chose 75 calories per day because that’s what they thought was physiologically interesting,” Dr. Snitker told Reuters Health. “But it’s not very well understood what kind of change you would need to get a particular amount of weight loss.”

In other words, the 50-calorie per day increase is small compared to the 75-calorie increase they had hoped to see, though even the effects of that higher mark are, according to Snitker, unclear.

There are 3500 calories in a pound. If you’re burning 75 calories a day, it would take about 46 days to lose one pound. Scientists and nutritionists are interested in

dihydrocapsiate as a dietary supplement because it is closely related to capsaicin, another chemical found in peppers. Capsaicin has already been shown to help increase metabolism, but because it is has an extremely hot taste, the less pungent dihydrocapsiate could provide an alternative.

To investigate dihydrocapsiate’s effect on calories burned, researchers gave 78 healthy men a pill with 0, 3, or 9 milligrams of the dihydrocapsiate, once a day for 4 weeks. The increase of 50 calories burned per day was only found after the researchers combined the data from the two groups receiving the supplement-separately, the two groups showed no significant effect.

Ajinomoto’s recommended daily dose for Capsiate

Natura contains 3 milligrams of dihydrocapsiate, or the equivalent of 10 cayenne peppers. But, Tashiro explained, most people either can’t eat that many cayenne peppers in a day because it upsets their stomach, or they just don’t like the flavor.

He also pointed out that Capsiate Natura is only available in the U.S. through doctors-it’s not yet available over the counter.

“When it comes to supplements that increase metabolism, there aren’t many options out there that are substantiated,” said Tashiro. “The FDA doesn’t evaluate whether these supplements work. It’s all up to manufacturers and marketers, and there are good guys and bad guys. We are trying to be good by marketing to doctors first.” □

Pepper supplement may not work for weight loss

Now entering Jackson family business: Austin Brown

By RYAN PEARSON,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Over a decade ago, when Michael Jackson was working on what would become his final album, a young producer named Rodney Jerkins set up shop in the dance room of the singer's Neverland Ranch. A youngster approached Jerkins with a bold swagger.

"I'm going to work with you. We're going to work together on my album," Austin "Auggie" Brown told Jerkins, who flashed back to his own introduction to Jackson as a teenager.

"I'm looking at this 13-year-old kid and I'm seeing all this ambition and it reminded me of myself the first time I met his uncle," Jerkins recalls. "I believe that when you speak things into existence, it happens. ... I said, 'I'll be ready when you're ready.'"

Brown — the son of Jackson's older sister Maureen, known as Rebbie — is now 24, and has been working at Jerkins' Los Angeles studio for months to create his debut album, "85." He's a serious and passionate student of music and dance, with handsome, distinctively angular facial features that recall his uncle in the "Thriller" period. Surrounded by musicians in his formative years, "I was a sponge," he said.

"My brother-in-law Rex, who taught me how to produce, he would show me how to play like a Janet song or something. And then I'd go to her and be like 'Watch this!'" he said. "I wanted to learn and to learn the songs. Play the songs, and then get the reaction from playing it and show people. I wanted to figure out the music, not just be around the music."

Perhaps the only surprise is that Brown didn't enter the family business sooner.

"It was really important to me to develop," Brown said in an interview alongside Jerkins, with his mother looking on quietly. "First and foremost, music is a privilege. It's not an entitlement for me. So I wanted to get better and get to the point where I felt like I was ready. And I did it on my own. I wanted to write with my own people, meet people for myself. Really go through the grind that everyone has to go through."

To be sure, Brown first hit a stage when he was 3 at one of his mother's concerts in Japan. It was family connections that led him to talented dance coaches in Las Vegas and to Jerkins, and family connections that prompted interest from People magazine, Access Hollywood and MTV even before the release of his first song. But Brown makes it clear that he wants to succeed based on his own talent.

"My last name is Brown. And you know, I can't help where I come from, but I love where I come from," he said.



FILE - In this Sept. 2, 2010 file photo, singer-songwriter Austin Brown poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

Brown says his album will blend classic soul and 1980s pop sounds with contemporary dance beats. He cites as influences Billy Idol, George Michael, Prince and his uncle — particularly when it comes to the key ingredient in songcraft. "My uncle, he was a stickler on that. He always told me, 'The melody. Be true to the melody. Melody is key,'" Brown said. "So that's really what we tried to do with '85.'" Jerkins, who completed a number of additional songs with Jackson before the singer's death last year, says

the rich tones of Brown's voice have been prompting more flashbacks.

"I haven't really told him this, but there have been moments where I listen to a part and it's like 'Whoa!' I get goosebumps because it just really puts me in that mindset of MJ," Jerkins said. "And that's amazing to me. Because it takes you there for a second."

Brown has released his first song, "Target Practice," for free via his website and expects to release his debut album, "85," next year on his label, The Royal Factory. □



FILE - In this May 23, 2010 file photo, winner of the Palme D'Or prize, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, director of 'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives,' poses after the awards ceremony at the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)

Bardem film, other Cannes winners join Oscar race

LOS ANGELES — Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Biutiful," which earned Javier Bardem a best-actor prize at the Cannes Film Festival, is among contenders for foreign-language honors at the Academy Awards.

Also among Oscar submissions from 65 countries that were announced Wednesday is Thai director Apichatpong Weerasethakul's "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives," which won the top Cannes award, the Palme d'Or, last May.

The second-place winner at Cannes, Xavier Beauvois' "Of Gods and Men," is France's Oscar entry, while Semih Kaplanoglu's "Honey," which won the top honor at February's Berlin film festival, is Turkey's submission.

Nominations are due out Jan. 25, with the 83rd Oscar ceremony following on Feb. 27. □



In this Aug. 7, 2010 photo, jazz legend Ahmad Jamal performs at the CareFusion Newport Jazz Festival in Newport, R.I.

(AP Photo/Joe Giblin)

By CHARLES J. GANS,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Jay-Z, Nas, Gang Starr and Common share this in common: They've all sampled recordings by jazz legend Ahmad Jamal, who in his unassuming manner has had a major impact on the musical world since he formed his first trio nearly six decades ago. Jamal's website has links to more than 40 hip-hop tracks

that sample his music. These include such seminal 1990s recordings as De La Soul's "Stakes Is High," which samples Jamal's "Swahililand," and Nas' "The World Is Yours," which uses the pianist's "I Love Music." "You could say Ahmad Jamal is the grandfather of hip-hop ... All the hip-hop beats were in jazz before there was actually hip-hop," said jazz pianist Robert Glasper, who is

music director of Mos Def's big band and has worked with Q-Tip, A Tribe Called Quest, Maxwell and Common.

But while Jamal said it's "flattering" that rap stars have used his music, it hasn't always been to his advantage.

"They sample this, they sample that. ... There's some good in some of these forms that are out there and some bad. You have to be sensible enough to recognize the good and discard the bad," said Jamal. "What's good is getting paid for some of this stuff. And that good doesn't happen to Mr. Jamal very often. I could make a career chasing all this money but I'm not going to do it."

Jamal is instead focused on chasing the music — his way. At 80, he's enjoying a new creative peak. He began the year by releasing the CD "A Quiet Time"; he also has spent a good part of 2010 on the concert circuit, and he's the subject of a retrospective, multidisc box set. □



Officials in 50 states launch foreclosure probe

By ALAN ZIBEL,
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON — Officials in 50 states and the District of Columbia have launched a joint investigation into allegations that mortgage companies mishandled documents and broke laws in foreclosing on hundreds of thousands of homeowners.

The states' attorneys general and bank regulators will examine whether mortgage company employees made false statements or prepared documents improperly. Alabama initially did not sign on to the investigation. It reversed course after the joint statement was released.

Attorneys general have taken the lead in responding to a nationwide scandal that's called into question the accuracy and legitimacy of documents that lenders relied

on to evict people from the homes. Employees of four large lenders have acknowledged in depositions that they signed off on foreclosure documents without reading them.

The allegations raise the possibility that foreclosure proceedings nationwide could be subject to legal challenge. Some foreclosures could be overturned. More than 2.5 million homes have been lost to foreclosure since the recession started in December 2007, according to RealtyTrac Inc. The state officials said they intend to use their investigation to fix the problems that surfaced in the mortgage industry.

"This is not simply about a glitch in paperwork," said Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, who is leading the probe. "It's also about some companies violating the law

and many people losing their homes."

Ally Financial Inc.'s GMAC Mortgage Unit, Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase & Co. already have halted some questionable foreclosures. Other banks, including Citigroup Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. have not stopped processing foreclosures, saying they did nothing wrong.

In a joint statement, the officials said they would review evidence that legal documents were signed by mortgage company employees who "did not have personal knowledge of the facts asserted in the documents. They also said that many of those documents appear to have been signed without a notary public witnessing that signature — a violation of most state laws.

Commodities lifts materials and industrial stocks

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Surging prices for metals, oil and other commodities lifted stock prices on Wednesday, especially industrial and materials companies.

Strong corporate earnings reports from JPMorgan Chase & Co., Intel Corp. and railroad operator CSX Corp. also gave investors more reasons to be assured about the economy. Gold touched another record and oil rose about 2 percent. Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. and Newmont Mining Corp. were among the biggest winners.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 120 points in afternoon trading. "In an improving (global) economy, everyone is going to consume more," said Christian Wagner, CEO of Longview Capital Management. "You need the basic materials." Wagner said growth should



remain strong in emerging markets helping keep demand high for commodities like aluminum and other metals.

The earnings reports all contained nuggets of hopeful news on the broader economy. □



FILE - In this March 10, 2009 file photo, victims of foreclosure and their supporters take part in a rally on Capitol Hill in Washington. Attorneys general in 49 states have launched a joint investigation into allegations that mortgage companies mishandled documents and broke laws in foreclosing on hundreds of thousands of homeowners.

(AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke, file)

"What we have seen are not mere technicalities," said Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray. "This is about the private property

rights of homeowners facing foreclosure and the integrity of our court system, which cannot enter judgments based on fraudulent evidence." □

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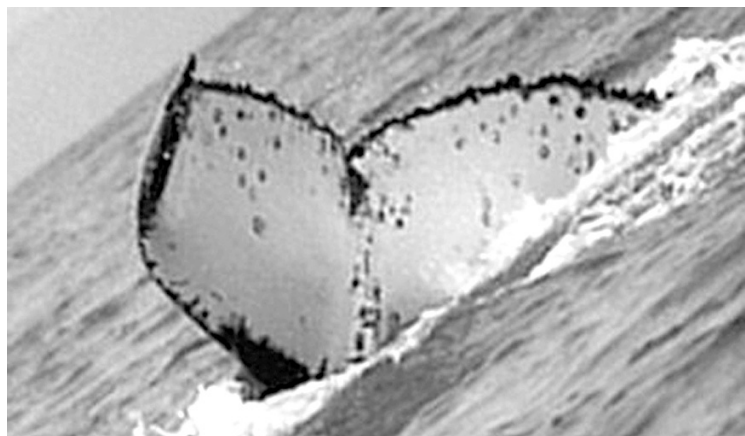
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Whale of a Trip: Humpback makes record migration



This 2001 photo released by F. Johansen and taken in Madagascar, shows a female humpback whale's tail fin, commonly known as a 'fluke.' This photo was used to identify a whale that traveled some 6,200 miles from coastal Brazil to waters off the African island of Madagascar.

(AP Photo/F. Johansen)

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER,
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — It wasn't love. It could have been adventure. Or maybe she just got lost. It remains a mystery why a female humpback whale swam thousands of miles from the reefs of Brazil to the African island of Madagascar, which researchers believe is the longest single trip ever undertaken by a mammal — humans excluded.

While humpbacks normally migrate along a north-to-south axis to feed and mate, this one — affectionately called AHWC No. 1363 — made the unusual decision to check out a new continent thousands of miles to the east.

Marine ecologist Peter Stevick says it probably wasn't love that motivated her — whales meet their partners at breeding sites, so it's unlikely that this one was following a potential mate.

"It may be that this is an extreme example of exploration," he said. "Or it could be that the animal got very lost."

Stevick laid out the details of the whale's trip on Wednesday in the Royal Society's Biology Letters, calculating that, at a minimum, the whale must have traveled about 6,200 miles (10,000 kilometers) to get from Brazil to Madagascar, off the coast of east Africa.

"No other mammal has been seen to move between two places that are further apart," said Stevick, who works at the Maine-based College of the Atlantic. And while he said "the distance alone would make it exceptional no matter

where it had gone," there was an added element of interest. Humpbacks are careful commuters, taking the same trip from cold waters where they hunt plankton, fish and krill to warm waters where they mingle and mate "year after year after year," he said. The location of their feeding and breeding spots sometimes varies, but their transoceanic commute doesn't usually change much.

Swapping a breeding ground in Brazil for one in Madagascar was previously unheard of.

"That's almost 90 degrees of longitude — so a quarter of the way around the globe," Stevick said. "Not only is this an exception, but it's a really remarkable exception at that." Humpback whales are powerful swimmers, and the 40-ton (36-metric ton) behemoths typically clock up 5,000 miles in their trips from the frosty waters of the North Atlantic and the Antarctic to more temperate areas around the equator. They're known for their eerie songs — composed of moans and cries — which travel huge distances underwater and whose precise function remains a mystery. They're also cherished by whale-watchers for their spectacular out-of-the-water jumps, called breaching.

Their numbers have recovered since they were almost hunted to extinction in the mid-20th century. But improvements have been uneven and scientists have been studying the whales and their movements to understand why.

It's to that end that Stevick and other experts have been trawling the Web for photos taken by tourists and whale-watchers, hoping to help build on a worldwide catalog of humpback whales which can be used to track where they travel.

It was by browsing photo-sharing site Flickr that one of Stevick's colleagues found a photo of this particular humpback, taken by a Norwegian tourist from a whale-watching vessel off the coast of Madagascar in 2001. The photo had been taken with a film camera and the negative sat undeveloped in a drawer for years. Eventually, it was scanned and posted to the Web, where it was spotted and added to the catalog.

Stevick's colleagues matched the Flickr photo to a picture of the whale taken two years earlier in Abrolhos, an area of small volcanic islands off the

Brazilian coast.

So how did Stevick and his colleagues recognize the whale as the same one photographed by researchers in 1999? Carole Carlson, Stevick's colleague, said the key to identifying humpback whales is in their tails. Humpbacks have big tail fins called "flukes," which are spotted and ridged. Carlson compared them to "huge fingerprints."

Stevick elaborated: "There's an enormous amount of information in those natural markings. There's the basic underlying pattern of the black and white pigment on it, numerous scars across the tail, and the edge is very jagged — each of those things provides a piece of information."

"The likelihood that two animals would have every single one of those things identical would be vanishingly small."

Simon Ingram, a professor of marine conservation at the University of Plymouth in southern England, expressed confidence the two photos showed the same whale, saying that photo identification was a "very, very powerful technique."

But Ingram, who wasn't involved in the research, said he was less excited by the length of the whale's trip than its destination.

"To my mind, the remarkable thing isn't the distance but the difference," he said. Whale communities were sometimes thought of as discrete communities, seldom mixing. This shows that's not always the case, he said.

As to why the whale went the way it did, Ingram said that, "the fact is, we just don't know."

"You can track them, but you don't know what's motivating them." □

Where Dinosaurs Died Reveals How They Lived

Charles Q. Choi

By looking at where dinosaurs died, scientists have uncovered new insights into how they lived.

It seems that Triceratops lived away from rivers, duck-billed dinosaurs dwelled near rivers, and T. rex was equally common everywhere, probably because the beast went wherever there was meat, researchers find.

The age of dinosaurs was a time of giants, and near the end of this era, these behemoths often lived surprisingly close to one another in the coastal lowlands of North America. As such, vertebrate paleontologists Tyler Lyson and Nicholas Longrich at Yale University reasoned the titans might have divided the landscape among themselves, so as to not constantly butt heads.

After the scientists analyzed 343 dinosaur skeletons of this time and place from 43 museum collections, they found links between the kind of dinosaurs they investigated and the kind of rock they were initially discovered in. "We can use the rock enclosing these fossils as clues to what they were up to," Lyson told LiveScience. "We're using what paleontologists usually throw away when excavating the fossils as clues to where they're spending most of their time."

The 180 Triceratops skeletons they examined

were mostly seen in mudstone laid down on floodplains by a nearly 2-to-1 ratio when compared with sandstone, while the 80 duck-billed dinosaurs known as hadrosaurs were most commonly found in sandstone laid down in rivers by a roughly 15-to-1 ratio when compared with mudstone. Nineteen skeletons of the bipedal herbivore known as Thescelosaurus were also discovered predominantly in sandstone by an 8-to-1 ratio compared with mudstone. Like duckbills, Thescelosaurus likely lived mainly close to rivers.

"It makes sense these different herbivores are spatially separated - if you look at modern times, white-tailed deer hang out by rivers while mule deer are by the plains," Lyson said. On the other hand, the 45 T. rex skeletons the researchers investigated showed no preference for either environment.

"That makes sense - as the sole large carnivore in this time and place, it would go to wherever meat was," Lyson said.

Future research can look at other groups of dinosaurs. "We could also look at different subgroups of dinosaurs - did all hadrosaurs spend time by the rivers, or were others more in floodplains?" Lyson noted.

Lyson and his colleagues detailed their findings online Oct. 13 in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B. □



**"FAVI FUNDACION
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Janet the Deporter

Pat Buchanan

Is "Big Sis" one of us?

Janet Napolitano, secretary of homeland security — Big Sis to regular readers of the Drudge Report — held a press conference last week that might cause critics to reconsider their views.

Napolitano claims that in fiscal year 2010, ending Sept. 30, the Obama administration set a record for deportations of illegal aliens, 393,000, breaking the old record of 389,000 in 2009.

The 2010 deportations represent an increase of 81,000 over the number in George W. Bush's final full year in office.

More important, half of the deportees, 195,772, had criminal arrests. Of these, one-third had committed serious felonies such as murder, rape and major drug offenses. If these figures are precise, Napolitano's Department of Homeland Security ran the equivalent of five army divisions of criminal aliens out of the United States.

In making deportation decisions, said Napolitano, we focus on "removing those who pose public safety threats to our communities."

Not only is this a fine record compared with the Bush administration, Napolitano's priorities, criminals out first, are what immigration reformers have demanded for decades.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement audited 2,200 businesses to check for illegal immigrants. Criminal charges were brought against 180 employers.

Yet, the report on Napolitano's press conference was buried in The New York Times, which raises a question. Why has the White House not itself been boasting about this record? For this crackdown, of which Hispanic communities are surely aware, seems not to have dented Barack Obama's popularity in the barrio.

The Democrats' problem among Hispanics is apathy.

From a new Pew poll of Hispanics, The Washington Post reports: "There is good news and bad news for

Democrats. ... Latinos support the party, but about half of those questioned say they might not show up at the polls on November 2."

As political analyst Steve Sailer, who looked deeper into the Pew poll, discovered: "Actually the Pew findings are even worse for the Democrats. ... Of 1,375 Hispanic adults interviewed, only 44 percent claimed to be registered voters. And only about half of those said they were certain to vote. And Republican Latinos, while rather thin on the ground, are more fired up to vote ... than are Democratic Latinos."

This replicated Census Bureau data from the McCain-Obama election. While Hispanics were about 15 percent of the population, they cast only 7.4 percent of the ballots.

Moreover, John McCain's pro-amnesty fight, which almost cost him the Republican nomination, did nothing to help him in November, when he lost Hispanics 67-32 to Obama.

But when the McCain of 2010 ran that ad demanding that the government "complete the danged fence," he crushed conservative rival J.D. Hayworth and is on his way back to the Senate for a fifth term.

McCain's record these past three years makes the point: Pandering to Hispanics on illegal immigration is no automatic winner for the GOP among Hispanics, and a tough line against illegal aliens is no automatic loser.

Even Democrats are catching on.

In the gubernatorial race in New Mexico, the most Hispanicized state in the union, Democratic Lt. Gov.

Diane Denish has promised to deny driver's licenses to illegals. Her Republican opponent, Susana Martinez, goes her one better. She will take away driver's licenses from illegal aliens who now have them. Martinez is running ahead and likely to be the first elected Latina governor in U.S. history.

Looking further into the Pew poll, Sailer found that of the seven issues of greatest concern to Hispanics, immigration ranked just fifth, barely ahead of the environment. Fewer than one in three Hispanics named immigration as extremely or very important.

The issues of greatest concern to Hispanics are education (58 percent), jobs (54 percent), health care (51 percent) and the budget deficit (35 percent). With the exception of an intense concern over the crisis in public education affecting their children, Latinos share the concerns of other Americans. Perhaps it is time we began to treat these as our fellow Americans, rather than doing the Rovian thing and cross-dressing as La Raza




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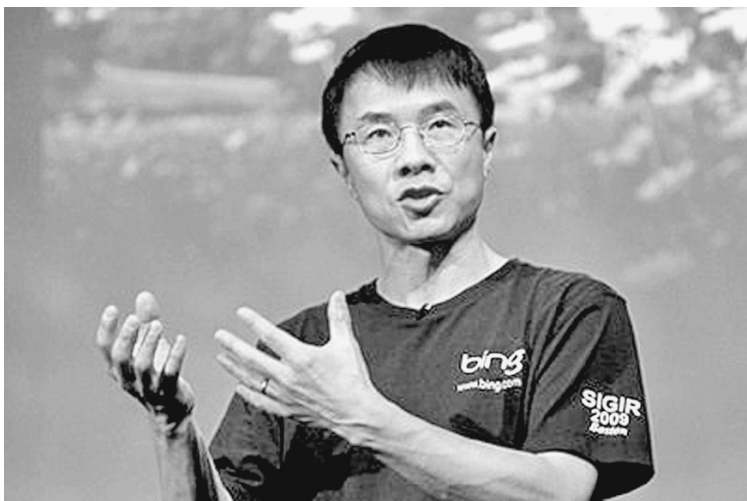
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Microsoft Online Services Division President Qi Lu speaks in the Galileo Auditorium on Microsoft's Silicon Valley Campus in Mountain View, Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

Microsoft, Facebook team up on social search

By JESSICA MINTZ,
AP Technology Writer

SEATTLE – Microsoft is starting to incorporate what your friends do on Facebook right into its Bing search engine. A new feature rolling out Wednesday will start showing what Facebook friends “like” on the search results page. On Facebook and sites around the Web, people can click a “like” button to show support or share information with friends. On Bing, if you search for a topic in the news, articles friends have shared on Facebook might appear. Restaurants and movies that friends have “liked” could help you decide what to do on your next date.

Microsoft has been working with Facebook since 2006. The feature could help distinguish Bing from Google, which only has access to information users make public. □

Phone app fights distracted driving with rewards

By PETER SVENSSON,
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK – Having trouble leaving the cell phone alone while you're driving, even though the distraction could get you and bystanders killed? Now, there's an app for that — with cash rewards for resisting the pull of the phone. There's a wild flora of applications intended to combat distracted driving.

The apps take differing approaches, as the industry tries to figure out how to curb behavior that by some estimates causes thousands of deaths every year. Safecellapp's innovation is that it pays its users, on the theory that money talks where the prospect of sudden death does not.

The application was released three weeks ago for Apple Inc.'s iPhones, and then for phones using Google Inc.'s Android system.

It costs \$11.99 and is designed to detect when the phone is moving faster than 5 miles per hour. When it does, it figures out where the phone is and looks up its database of local safe driving laws. If the user abides by those laws,

such as by not talking on the phone without a hands-free device, the app issues points worth \$1 for every 100 miles travelled.

Conversely, users lose points for infractions, such as sending a text message when that's prohibited.

The points can be redeemed at such retailers Barnes & Noble and Apple, says W2W LLC, the Houston-based company behind the app.

W2W says the app can be a good tool for teenage drivers and for companies that want to keep their employees safe while driving on business. Users need to fire up the iPhone app manually before driving, or they won't earn any points. The Android app can run all the time “in the background,” but may drain the battery.

Like most other safe-driving apps, Safecellapp can't tell if the phone's owner is a passenger or a driver. That means a passenger could rack up points by using the app, but will be docked points if he or she answers the phone.

For those who buy the app after Dec. 28, there's an additional \$11.99 per year fee. □

Apple shares top \$300 a share for first time

By BARBARA ORTUTAY,
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK – Apple's shares topped \$300 for the first time in the company's history Wednesday as stellar iPad sales and a planned expansion into China give investors all the assurance they need for the iPhone maker's already healthy prospects.

Shares of Apple Inc. climbed \$1.60 to close at \$300.14 after peaking at a record \$301.96 earlier. This gives Apple a market capitalization of about \$273 billion. Apple had long surpassed the scale of tech heavyweights such as Microsoft

Corp., Google Inc. and IBM, which also hit an all-time high on Wednesday.

In fact, Apple's market cap is now trails only Exxon Mobil Corp. as a U.S. publicly traded company. Exxon's market cap hovers around \$330 billion. Big-name corporations such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and General Electric Co. don't even come close.

Apple, which reports fiscal fourth-quarter earnings on Monday, has been on a tear lately, with sales of the iPad tablet surpassing expectations. Investors also have high hopes for Apple's push into China,

where the iPhone maker is looking to open 25 retail stores next year.

Mounting speculation about a Verizon iPhone as soon as 2011 is also adding to Apple's appeal. Currently, the iPhone is only available from AT&T Inc. in the U.S.

Analysts, on average, expect Apple to report earnings of \$4.05 per share on revenue of \$18.83 for the quarter, according to a poll by Thomson Reuters.

Morgan Keegan analyst Tavis McCourt said the recent \$400 million acquisition of app developer ngmoco by Japan's DeNA Co. is also a huge plus for Apple. Ngmoco is known for the games it makes for the iPhone, though it also plans to release apps for Android devices soon.

Even so, McCourt said the pricey acquisition means even more app developers will flock to Apple, where they have the best chance to make the most money.

There is little in the way to slow Apple's ascent. Sterne Agee analyst Vijay Rakesh, who has a target price of \$320 on Apple, estimates Apple shipped 12 million to 15 million units of the iPhone 4 during the fourth quarter, well ahead of expectations, and far exceeding the 8.4 million in Apple's third quarter. □



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Ayer por la noche

Chile se acercaba a final de rescate de mineros atrapados

CAMPAMENTO
ESPERANZA, Chile (Reuters)

- Los mineros atrapados en las entrañas de Chile volvieron el miércoles a ver la luz del sol y a abrazar a sus familiares, en un emotivo rescate que puso fin a dos meses de encierro bajo tierra y se ha ganado un lugar en la historia.

Entre gritos de felicidad, aplausos y festejos, 28 de los 33 mineros que estuvieron 69 días en las fauces de la mina San José, en el Desierto de Atacama, emergieron a la superficie en una cápsula con los colores patrios de Chile, que fue izada por un estrecho y caluroso túnel de 622 metros de roca sólida.

Los trabajadores restantes se preparaban para subir en un operativo de rescate que avanzaba más rápido de lo esperado y podía terminar esta misma noche, poniendo broche de oro a uno de los mayores hitos de supervivencia bajo tierra.

Los mineros habían quedado atrapados en un refugio de emergencia de la mina de cobre y oro San José por un derrumbe el 5 de agosto que desató especulaciones iniciales de que habían muerto.

Pero las esperanzas se encendieron cuando 17 días después lograron enviar, por un hoyo abierto durante las operaciones de búsqueda, un papel manuscrito diciendo que estaban vivos y en buen estado.

“Bienvenido de vuelta a la vida”, dijo el miércoles el presidente chileno, Sebastián Piñera, al minero Carlos Bugueño, de 27 años, estrechándolo en sus brazos. Millones de personas de todo el mundo seguían la odisea por cadenas televisivas, mientras el meticuloso rescate que comenzó en la medianoche del martes se acercaba a un final feliz.

Los cuerpos de rescate prometieron no parar



El minero Pablo Rojas, que se encontraba atrapado en la mina San José, emerge en la cápsula de rescate Fénix en Copiapó, Chile. oct 13 2010. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado

hasta sacar al último de los trabajadores del interior de la mina.

“Fue el (partido) más duro de mi vida”, dijo el minero Franklin Lobos, un ex jugador profesional de fútbol de 52 años que llegó a disputar la Copa Libertadores y que apenas salió de la cápsula comenzó a mostrar su dominio de viejos tiempos con una pelota que le

obsequiaron.

Los mineros eran trasladados por procedimiento a un hospital móvil en el campamento y luego a un centro médico en la vecina ciudad de Copiapó, aunque hasta ahora todos mostraban buena salud.

Solamente uno presentaba un cuadro de neumonía y estaba siendo tratado con antibióticos, dijo a periodistas el ministro

de Salud, Jaime Mañalich.

Los mineros emergían enfundados en trajes especiales para enfrentar la abrupta diferencia térmica entre la mina y la superficie y lentes oscuros para protegerlos de la luz.

“Nacimos todos de nuevo. El corazón se me salía”, comentó Yessenia Segovia, al ver el ascenso de su hermano Víctor,

que fue quien escribió decenas de páginas dentro de la mina con la historia de la tragedia. Mientras caía la noche, poco a poco el campamento junto a la mina, bautizado con el nombre Esperanza, se iba despoblando. Los familiares de los mineros ya rescatados enfilaban para sus casas y algunos periodistas comenzaban a empacar sus cámaras.

UN RESCATE QUE ACERCO A TODOS

En un gesto que acercó a dos vecinos con viejos pleitos territoriales, el mandatario chileno recibió junto a su colega de Bolivia, Evo Morales, al único minero boliviano que salió de la tierra en la cápsula diseñada en conjunto con la NASA. Morales agradeció a los mineros chilenos por cuidar a su “hermano” Carlos Mamani y ofreció llevarse a Bolivia a su compatriota con trabajo incluido.

Pero el trabajador dijo que quería pensarlo, según uno de sus diez hermanos que viajó con otros familiares 35 horas desde la ciudad de Cochabamba hasta el hospital de Copiapó.

“Es un chileno más, así deberíamos ser todos los países, todos hermanos”, dijo sobre Mamani Víctor Zamora, otro de los rescatados, cuando lo ingresaban al hospital de campaña. Otro de los rescatados, Edison Peña, un fanático de la leyenda del Rock and Roll Elvis Presley, recibió una invitación desde Estados Unidos para visitar la mansión del fallecido artista. En la madrugada del miércoles, bocinas y aplausos llenaron el aire y campanas repicaron en ciudades del país, mientras la mina iba pariendo uno a uno a los trabajadores. Antes del cierre de esta edición la labor de rescate de los 33 mineros se acercaba a un final feliz. □

Justicia española pide a Venezuela que actúe contra ETA

MADRID (AP) - La justicia española advirtió el miércoles a Venezuela que no se puede tolerar amparo alguno a ETA y dijo que si hay colaboradores del grupo separatista vasco en el país sudamericano debe “juzgarlos o entregarlos”. El fiscal general del Estado, Cándido Conde-Pumpido, manifestó que se va a investigar a fondo el papel de Arturo Cubillas, que trabajó como funcionario del gobierno de Hugo Chávez y al que dos etarras detenidos acusaron de organizar un curso sobre manejo de armas en Venezuela en 2008.

El presidente venezolano afirmó antes de partir a Rusia para una gira de trabajo que “la derecha está empeñada en que el mundo crea que yo soy un terrorista o apoyo al terrorismo o que soy un narcotraficante para abrirme un juicio”. “Si existen indicios racionales de que alguien en Venezuela ha apoyado al terrorismo español esa persona tiene, o

bien que ser entregada a España para ser juzgada o bien ser investigada y enjuiciada en Venezuela”, agregó. El canciller Miguel Angel Moratinos reiteró en el parlamento que el gobierno exigirá a Venezuela una “respuesta definitiva” sobre Cubillas y el adiestramiento de etarras. En respuesta a una pregunta del opositor Partido Popular (PP), Moratinos recordó que hay una investigación en curso y dijo que el ejecutivo utilizará todos los mecanismos “políticos, diplomáticos, judiciales y policiales para derrotar a ETA” allá donde esté.

Precisamente Cubillas, considerado el responsable del colectivo de ETA en Venezuela desde su llegada al país sudamericano a finales de los 80, pidió a las autoridades judiciales venezolanas la apertura de una investigación de los hechos y denunció el “estado de indefensión” en el que se encuentra por la avalancha de acusaciones en su contra. □

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